

THE AMERICAN

JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, THE ARTS, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

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PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1890.

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VOL. XIX.—No. 501.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1890.

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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE curious story was in circulation, within a week or ten days, that there was not an intention to report a Tariff bill at this session of Congress. We judge this to be a weak invention of the enemies of all Tariffs, or at best a structure made up of inferences and imaginings. The idea that there would be very lavish appropriations of money has been fondly cherished in the bosoms of those who want no Tariff revision by this Congress, and when to it was added the fact that the Ways and Means Committee is not yet ready to report, the two elements were united,—as far as they could be made to unite,—and we had the *canard* first above mentioned.

Of course, there must be a Tariff bill. Of course there must be no such extravagance of appropriations as will wipe out the excess of revenue. To make a mistake on either point would be fatuous. The Republicans laid out their programme at Chicago, secured a majority of Congress, and elected the President: now they have the opportunity of putting the programme in action. Does anybody suppose they would be trusted soon again if they showed themselves incapable or tricky in such a serious business?

Major Carson, the Washington correspondent of the *Philadelphia Ledger*, is clerk of the Ways and Means Committee. He telegraphs (Wednesday) that while no date can be fixed when the Tariff bill will be reported, the measure is being perfected by the Republican members, and will soon be ready to be considered by the full Committee, and that when this has been accomplished "a short time" only will intervene before its report to the House. We apprehend that this statement is safe to depend on.

OUR Democratic and Mugwump friends continue to proclaim the failure of the Pan-American Congress, which their own Administration called together, but on account of the vote of 1888 was not allowed to manage. Thus far, Mr. Blaine appears to have carried every point of the programme on which the Congress has voted, except the proposal of a continental Zollverein, and we cannot suppose that he took its disapproval very seriously. No doubt if Mr. Bayard had had the management of the negotiation, we should have a rich crop of reciprocity treaties, such as Mr. Frelinghuysen favored us with when he was in the State Department. Mr. Blaine does not believe in breaking down the Tariff in that or in any other way. It is because he stands in the way of this, that the Congress is such a disappointment to the Free Trade factions.

On Monday the Committee having the matter in charge reported a recommendation of joint-subsidies to steamship lines to connect the ports around the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. They made this recommendation in view of—

"the advantages that would accrue from increased social, commercial, and international intercourse, their dependence upon proper communication, the improbability that this will be established by unaided private enterprise, the duty of Governments to promote public welfare, the small public expenditures required to secure adequate mail, passenger, and freight facilities, and the necessity for their control by the countries whose interests they should subserve."

As yet there has been no action on the larger question of joint-subsidies between our own ports and those on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard of South America; but we may infer from the tone of the Congress that there will be no hesitation on that point. It will take some time to overcome the commercial prejudices which European traders and diplomats have fostered against our country; but a little patience and a little "push" will suffice to secure us our rightful place in the business of our Continent.

If the committees who have jurisdiction over the matter are fair representatives of the Senate and the House, there evidently is a wide difference of opinion between the two bodies as to the merits of Mr. Windom's silver proposals. The House Committee has accepted the plan of the Secretary, with but one important amendment, to which he probably would not object. This provides that should the price of silver reach the point at which our standard dollars would be worth their nominal value, the deposit of silver shall cease and its free coinage on private account shall take its place,—to continue of course only so long as the price is maintained. This should make the measure more acceptable to the silver men, and it can involve the country in no kind of risk. The rate at which silver can be coined with our present Mint machinery is not so great that any temporary and factitious rise in the value of the metal would not result in a great addition to the currency. And as the only objection to our standard dollars is that they are not worth as much as are gold dollars, the permanent equalization of their values,—if the new bill should achieve that,—would remove all reasons against free coinage.

On the other hand, the Senate Committee has substituted for Mr. Windom's a bill of its own, which certainly is not an improvement. It requires the Treasury to purchase and deposit as the basis of a new currency the amount of \$4,500,000 a month, or more than the whole world is producing. Such an arrangement would adjust itself far less easily to the fluctuations in supply and in price than would Mr. Windom's measure, and we are unable to discover in it any advantages over that. It is not surprising to hear that Mr. Sherman does not support it.

THE strongest objection to both plans is that they extend a favor to this particular kind of merchandise, which hardly can be vindicated on any sound principle, and that they suggest similar proposals for the advantage of the producers of other articles. Thus Senator Vance has introduced a bill to establish great government warehouses for the deposit of farm produce, on whose security the Nation is to advance paper money. This measure is gravely supported by a large body of farmers in the South, and they threaten to make it warm for any Southern Congressman who does not support it. It is said that very few of them will do so, but they will have deserved their fate if their opposition to it should unseat them. It was their false and preposterous statements about the Tariff, and what it did for manufacturers, which evidently suggested this wild proposal to put the farmers on a level with them, since the Tariff is not to be repealed. It is noteworthy that while Northern farmers very generally support Mr. Windom's silver plan, in the belief that a larger amount of currency will raise prices, they do not favor any such idiocy as this warehouse system. The national Grange has repudiated it through its representatives.

And now comes Senator Stanford with the proposal that the National Government shall lend the farmers money on the security of their land, charging only a nominal interest. If the California Senator had proposed to charter a system of land-banks, like those which exist on the continent of Europe and have rendered great services to its farmers, his proposal would have been worth discussing. These land-banks are sometimes governmental institutions, but not necessarily so. They are based on the principle that while a single farm or estate is bad security, the land of a whole district is good security, and each bank negotiates its loans in the money-market on the basis of a joint pledge of a large group of land-owners. In this way it is made possible for them to secure advances on as low terms as any other borrowers, and when the banks are government institutions, the loans are

still made in the money-market, and not of the Treasury as Mr. Stanford proposes. He and the Southern farmers would convert Uncle Sam into a great pawn-broker, and then we might place the three gilded balls on the national coat-of-arms.

SENATORS Plumb and Hale have made speeches in opposition to the bill to extend national aid to education, which show that it is very hard for people brought up in one kind of community to understand the difficulties of another kind. The one represents a New England State; the other a Western one, into which much of the best blood of New England and the other Northern States was poured to save it from slavery. In both States there is wealth enough and more than public spirit enough to establish an effective school system, although perhaps the farmers of both would relish the relief of the burdens of local taxation, which would result from a general distribution of the surplus. Both senators exhibit the most curious oblivion of the strongly contrasted circumstances of the South, and of the historic reasons for the difference. Both administer to that section the platitudes about thrift, local energy, and the like, with which the well-to-do often like to edify their neighbors. Both say a great many things which are true enough, but which hit the mark about as well as if the speakers were shooting with the target behind their back. And both sat down with the consciousness of having served their country by having launched their common-places at the most important bill before Congress.

It was well that Mr. Higgins came after these gentlemen to remind the Senate of what lay beyond their limited horizon. The new Senator from Delaware is familiar with the Southern situation, while his principles and his education equally forbid him to acquiesce in it, as many of the Southern Senators seem to do. His description of the condition and needs of the South was discriminating and just. Instead of lumping all the States of that section together, he drew the line between those which could and those which could not educate their people, and showed that in the latter the amount of illiteracy was perilously great and on the increase. "This South could indulge in none of the dreams of prosperity pictured for the other sections. It was poor; it was cramped and crippled by the burdens already upon it; it could do no more for education than it had done; and the question was simply whether the other States, richer and more fortunate, should relieve these overburdened and struggling communities, and help them solve by education the problem of political equality between the white and black races." He also reminded the Senators from the North who opposed the bill how much the school system of their own States had owed in its inception to just such national aid as they now choose to describe as ruinous to local initiative!

THE New York Chamber of Commerce finds the McKinley bill to amend the administration of the Tariff laws faulty on some points, and has petitioned the Senate to amend it in these respects. But it does not take part in the wholesale denunciations of the measure in which some of the newspapers of that city are indulging, and it declines to ask for several of the modifications which they are demanding as of the greatest necessity and the clearest justice. At first the Chamber was inclined to take somewhat extreme ground in favor of amendments; but on farther reflection it declined to prejudice its case by asking anything that was not capable of the strongest advocacy as reasonable and right. This change of mind was due largely to the efforts of Mr. Edward H. Ammidown, who showed that many of the provisions of the Law, to which strong exception had been taken, had been suggested by Mr. Manning in his reports as Secretary of the Treasury. He illustrated the necessity for the strongest safeguards against false invoicing by the fact that while our Government accepts the oath of an English merchant taken before an English official as adequate evidence of the value of imported merchandise, it has been obliged to be much more exacting as regards goods coming from the Continent, and to require our consuls to ascertain and certify

values. He traced this difference to the different attitude of the people towards their own governments, the repressive rulers of the Continent having taught the people that it was a sort of virtue to outwit authority of any sort. As representing the majority of the Committee whose report was under consideration, he accepted an amendment deprecating the refusal of the right of trial by jury where that right exists under the Constitution, but not committing the Chamber to making that charge against the Bill.

On one feature of the bill Mr. Ammidown refused to assent to the recommendation of an amendment, and the Chamber sustained him. This is the clause which makes a deep and broad distinction between genuine importers and mere consignees. The former are permitted to add to the amount of any invoice they receive, so as to bring the total up to the real value of the goods imported. The latter are not. This is a just distinction. To refuse it to genuine importers would be to punish them for the attempt of foreign firms to evade the Tariff duties. But as the consignees are nothing more than the American agents of these foreign firms, to permit alterations is to protect them against the penalties of their own rascality.

It is not creditable to France that the greatest outcry against the bill comes from that country, and that the services of the Minister of Foreign Affairs have been invoked to bring the government's influence to bear against its passage. One excited and irrepressible member of the French Assembly even proposes to unite the European Powers to prevent the passage of the bill, as it would put a stop to the business of supplying us with European dry-goods! He forgot that both his own country and his neighbors in Germany have laws in force which prohibit the importation of certain American food products.

MR. REAGAN is one of those Southern Congressmen who do not live in the past, or breathe only the atmosphere of partisan enmities. Throughout his career in House and Senate he has been keeping his eye upon great national problems, in a way that reminds us of Mr. Garfield. It is understood that the bill to establish a system of irrigation in that "Great American Desert," of whose existence the newspapers profess to be sceptical, will be chiefly his work. He and other Senators gave a large part of the recess to visiting the region and studying its possibilities, as a special committee; and they expect to report a measure at an early date.

THE measure which is proposed by Mr. McComas of Maryland, to put a check, such as the Constitution authorizes, upon the dirty and despicable business of gerrymandering, ought to be passed beyond a doubt. It will, as we understand it, effectually set aside the two partisan jobs which have been perpetrated in Ohio and Maryland, and will require the elections of Representatives in Congress to be held in 1890,—and until a new apportionment is duly made on the basis of the 1890 Census,—in the same districts that existed in the elections of 1888. It does not, however, stop here; it provides for an apportionment only once in each decade, after the Census has been taken, and its results are announced. After this has been made, it is not to be taken up and changed, according as the Legislature may change, in order to secure a party advantage, but it is to stand until the proper time comes around again.

Such a measure is so entirely and manifestly fair for both parties, and all parties, that it ought to be unopposed. And the Maryland job particularly deserves to feel the weight of such a law, for there the apportionment has been made since 1880, by the same party which now has made it again, the sole and simple reason for this present one being that the people had been voting in the old districts as Mr. Gorman and his followers did not like. Mr. McComas's bill will commend itself to the common sense of the country, and should be brought to the front promptly.

THE quite uncalled-for criticism of Mr. Porter as Commissioner of the Census has abated, not only because its own baselessness was evident enough, but because of the organizing talent he has shown, and the good judgment he has displayed in the selection of his subordinates. The enumeration of the population, which is the chief work of the Census, begins on the first of July. Mr. Porter feels confident of being able to place the results before the country by the first day of August. The supervisors have all been appointed already. New and improved machinery for making calculations has been obtained. And the Nation will know how big it is, and where the new drift of population has put the political centre of gravity, within the shortest time in which that feat has ever been accomplished. That the effect will be to increase greatly the voting power of the North-west, both in Congress and in the electoral college, hardly admits of any doubt. But it also is unlikely that the Republican gain in that quarter, including even the voters of the four new States, will deprive New York of its position as the pivotal State.

It would have lost that position several years ago, if the Republicans,—who then controlled the Legislature and held the Governorship also,—had chosen to enact that the presidential electors should be elected separately by the Congressional districts,—one for each,—with the State as a whole choosing only the two electors at large. The proposition was made in 1880, but was not entertained because it was held to involve a breach of faith, since the Legislature had not been chosen on that issue. The Democratic majority in the Ohio Legislature entertains no such scruple. It contemplates supplementing its careful gerrymander of the State by a law which throws upon the districts thus formed the work of selecting the presidential electors of 1892, in the hope of securing fifteen votes out of twenty-five for the candidate of its party, even although the Republicans should carry the State. Perhaps it is just as well that this legislature of Ohio should take as much rope as it can get. It already has done what should disgust all reasonable and decent people, and by the time its successor comes to be elected, the cup may be full to overflowing.

DURING the first twelve months of Mr. Cleveland's administration there were about 20,500 removals from office and appointments to the places thus vacated. These were quite enough to explode the claim that his administration was one of Civil Service Reform. During the first year of his successor the removals and appointments numbered some 35,800. This is the more notable as the Senator Harrison of Indiana, who made the able speech in exposure of Mr. Cleveland's bad record as regards the appointments in that State, is supposed to be at the head of the government. Perhaps, as Mr. Lincoln once said of himself jestingly, he has "not much influence with this Administration."

WE find certain of our Free Trade contemporaries highly,—and justly,—indignant at the criminal carelessness with which affairs are managed in New York harbor. Almost if not quite within sight of the Battery, cargoes of rubbish and garbage are dumped into it, to the destruction of channels which the Nation dredged at great expense. And the Chamber of Commerce is told by the Harbor supervisor, that there can be no remedy for the evil until the cremation of rubbish is substituted for dumping it, as the latter is done at night and it would take a small fleet of government boats to watch the barges and see that they go out far enough.

But let us ask our Free Trade contemporaries a question. How do you reconcile your demands for national outlays on your harbor with your own principles? Why not leave the whole matter to the merchants of New York, whose interest it is to keep the harbor in a usable condition? What is there in international trade which entitles it to put its hand into the public purse to keep its apparatus in good working order, when,—as you assert,—it is contrary to sound economic principles to do anything whatever for manufactures? As such outlays divert capital into

channels in which it would not flow, if New York harbor were allowed to silt up, they are contrary to Free Trade as defined by its best representatives. It is true that the United Kingdom makes far greater outlays on its harbors than we do; but John Bull always finds good excuse for making an exception in favor of anything that serves his own interests. We are a people of more lucidity than the English, Matthew Arnold said. We see more clearly what are the necessary conclusions of our own premises. Let our Free Traders exhibit their lucidity.

IN several States there is a stir over the employment of children in factories. The new combination of farmers and workingmen in New Jersey, called the Senate of Industry, has been discussing the subject. It is charged that Inspector Fell, who has the responsibility in that State, has neglected his duty very grossly, and that the law is violated in every manufacturing town of the State. In Pennsylvania the *Press* has been investigating various localities with regard to its observance, and finds frequent violations of it. In Virginia a strike has been precipitated by the enforcement of the new law to limit the employment of minors and of women. The owners of several cotton factories put down wages on the plea that the law will make production more costly; and the working people refuse to submit to a reduction. We hope this will lead to no weakening. Manufactures are of great importance to the nation and to every locality in it. But it is even more important that we shall not go into the business of manufacturing out of our human material a weak and stunted and embittered race, who may serve as so much human gunpowder for the spark the demagogue can supply. After all it is not wealth, but men and women who are the end for which society exists.

SOME remarks are made, by those of the Republican newspapers of Pennsylvania that own themselves, upon the gross impropriety of the course pursued by the Chairman of the State Committee, Mr. Andrews. As we have heretofore mentioned, Mr. Andrews is simply a political partner of Mr. Delamater, and with him an agent of Mr. Quay. His nominal relation to the Republican organization is nominal entirely; he is not a trustee of its interests, or a custodian of its honor. Mr. Delamater, by his energetic secret canvass of 1887, and his free expenditure of money, secured the ousting of Mr. Cooper from the Chairmanship, and put Mr. Andrews into it as his "man," with a strict view to the Governorship in 1890, and now the so-called "Chairman" is using all his influence for Mr. Delamater's nomination. Without the Chairmanship, Mr. Andrews is a nobody; and such power as he has is derived from his official relation to the party which thus, he abuses.

Among the papers which we notice as protesting are the *Doylestown Intelligencer* and the *Lancaster Examiner*, both journals of the first importance to the Republican party in the two large counties in which they are published. The thought they utter is doubtless entertained by many more, but the apprehension lest the schemes of Mr. Delamater should be successful, and the clutch of Mr. Quay be made more tight than before, checks many utterances. It ought to be perfectly evident even to the timid that such political operations as these of Messrs. Quay, Delamater, and Andrews are doomed to disaster. They will fail, of course. The public knowledge of Mr. Quay precludes the idea that decent freemen will permit him to make a Governor of the State for the next four years, or will give the sanction of success to so preposterous and impudent a procedure as this of "Chairman" Andrews. The whole concern will be unloaded, and that soon.

THE resignation of Herr Tisza, the Prime-Minister of Hungary, shows what a power the name of Kossuth still exercises over the Hungarian people. The fallen statesman had outridden more than one political storm. As a plebeian and a Protestant he is offensive to some of the strongest interests of his country. But no intrigue could unseat him until he refused to override the law in recognizing Kossuth's right to Hungarian citizenship. The old champion of the Hungarian Republic is living in retirement in

Florence. He refuses to acknowledge the new order of things in Austria-Hungary by either word or act. The dual empire and its constitutional sovereign do not exist for him. The law required him by a specified date to declare himself a citizen, and he refused. On every ground recognized by the law of Hungary and other civilized countries, Herr Tisza is in the right. But sentiment was too much for him, and the aristocracy used his misstep for his overthrow, as many of his Liberal supporters in the Diet deserted him in spite of his declaration that he would treat his defeat as a demand for his resignation.

It now remains to be seen what use the Liberals will make of the opportunity to coalesce with the nobles in the formation of a new ministry, and how its head will come to an understanding with the Emperor, who regards the vote as an affront.

FINANCIAL REVIEW.

NEW YORK.

SURPRISES in Wall street are usually in favor of the bears, but this week they were on the side of the bulls, and the second one scared the traders who were short of the market half out of their wits. The first came in Reading. The inside history of the recent big move in this stock will be known some day, and probably the day is not distant; but for the moment all parties concerned seem interested in keeping the details to themselves, and only the general features of the transaction are known to outsiders. It may be said at the outset that the present managers of Reading have had no part and no personal interest in the matter. The vote at the annual meeting for President showed that the holders of a majority of the company's stock are ranged in opposition to the Morgan-Corbin party, and the latter are understood to have sold out the bulk of their holdings of Reading stock. Some of the party have transferred their interests to Jersey Central. This party, therefore, are interested only as spectators. The combination which holds that large block of Reading stock which really governs to a certain extent the market quotations, may be called the Dow-Sully party. It is well known that Mr. Wanamaker is a member of the combination. He may not, however, be actually a holder of pool stock, his holdings being independent of the pool. The brokers who have had charge of the pool, so far as market manipulation is concerned, were the Messrs. Wormser, and it is said they had as their own share, 50,000 shares of pool stock. For some time past the other members of the pool have been dissatisfied with the way the stock was handled in the market. They seem to have had suspicions of the good faith of the house of Wormser & Co. It would appear that last week they determined on a reorganization of the pool. This, at least, is the natural inference from what followed. All that is certainly known is that last week there was immense selling of Reading stock, and of the bonds also; and that after a great deal of this had been done, the Wormsers were notified to deliver the pool stock to the firm of Moore & Schley.

The order could not have related to the stock which the Wormsers personally owned in the pool. It must necessarily have been only the stock of the other members. It is asserted that the order was given at ten minutes to three last Friday afternoon. On Saturday the stock rallied sharply, but on Monday morning there was such a hot demand for "cash" stock, that is stock to be delivered immediately, instead of next day, which is the rule with a "regular" sale, that the difference between the cash and regular was at one time as much as 2½ per cent. It is said that the Wormsers were caught short, that they had been selling on their own account and using the pool stock to make deliveries. They deny this, and the Sully party also say it is not true. They evidently have no desire to antagonize the Wormsers more than they can help; in fact, they intimate that they are still friendly there and desire to remain so. The net result appears to be that the Reading pool is reorganized, with the Wormsers left out. The pool stock was sold on the Exchange, and as fast as sold was bought again, probably on a scale down, by the other members of the combination, who now hold it. It was simply a liquidation and recovery, done through the stock Exchange. This, at any rate, is a reasonable inference from what appears on the surface. The rapid rise in the price of the stock, and the fears that a "corner" would develop, gave the bears a good scare; but there was still enough short interest left after the whole affair was apparently over, and excitement had died away, to make the stock loan at a premium. The pool combination is a strong one, and the transfer of the stock to the firm of Messrs. Moore & Schley is understood to mean that a more aggressive policy will be pursued in the market than has heretofore been the case. It is needless to say that the Sully party are bitterly op-

posed to President Corbin, and promise to push the legal proceedings to oust him to the utmost extremity. If they succeed, it is intimated by some of Mr. Corbin's friends that the coal combination may be in danger. They control Jersey Central, and one company is sufficient to break up all existing arrangements.

The other fright the bears got came late on Wednesday and it caused a helter-skelter rush to buy in all outstanding shorts, so that the market went up with a jump. It was the announcement that the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Company had purchased that chronic disturber of the peace in the West, the Chicago Burlington & Northern. Wall street has had false alarms on this half a dozen times before, and the first rumors were received with distrust, especially as the market had shown no sign of the coming event, having been quite dull and flat all day. Very soon, however, the despatches came thick and fast from Boston that the trade had actually been made, the price paid being \$40 per share; and then followed the official announcement. It was actually funny to see the way prices jumped, and the excitement on the floor of the Exchange rose to fever heat. The brokers yelled themselves hoarse. Naturally the main current of buying was in the grangers, and the stocks rose two per cent. in half an hour. Three o'clock came in time to shut off a further rise. The event was important enough to justify much of this excitement, and it came so suddenly that every short seemed caught napping. Even in Boston, where the market had been suspiciously strong all day, no whisper seems to have got out until just before the thing was regularly announced. Most of the trading of the day there had been in Atchison, which was being bought on the good statement of earnings it made for February, and also because it is thought the Atchison syndicate will have to buy stock to put into the voting trust. It is true that C. B. & N. had risen several points during the morning, but the stock had always been subject to just such fluctuations in the Boston market, and had caused by them many false alarms that the long expected transfer had been made. So no special attention was paid to the matter.

The C. B. & Northern was built by the directors of the C. B. & Q., and extends from a junction point on their line in Illinois to St. Paul. The C. B. & Q. owned part of the stock, but the bulk of it was owned by Messrs. Forbes and Perkins, who held it in their private capacity and not as officers of the C. B. & Q. The line having no local business to speak of has had to get its living out of the through business between St. Paul and Chicago, and on this it has been a perpetual rate cutter. The other company which has suffered most by this is the St. Paul, and the managers of the latter have always insisted that the C. B. & Q. should be held responsible for the acts of its protégé. To make it feel the responsibility it has cut rates on its Iowa lines whenever the C. B. & N. has been particularly troublesome. The Iowa business is the C. B. & Q.'s best traffic, and cutting rates there was cutting where it hurt. Hence there have been constant bickerings and all that trouble among the Western roads which has played havoc with their earnings. Quite recently, when it seemed that there was business enough for all the roads at regular rates, the manager of the C. B. and Northern had another acute attack of the rate cutting fever, and reduced his through rates, alleging that his line was losing business at the tariff then prevailing. The St. Paul company at once retaliated in the usual way by reducing its Iowa rates. There has been much angry feeling among security-holders because of this, and at last the C. B. & Q. people seem to have made up their minds that the time had come for a change. They have put the troublesome child of theirs out of the way of further harm, and the event has been hailed as the beginning of a new order of things among the granger roads. It will probably be followed by announcements of other changes, as it is scarcely likely so important a thing as this was done alone. It is reasonable to suppose that it is part of a general plan, and Wall street so considers it. Of course the C. B. & Q. will have to support the newly-acquired line to a certain extent, as it will no longer be allowed to disturb things by struggling for business. But it can better afford to do this than have what promises to be a season of growing prosperity completely broken up by another general and demoralizing rate war, such as the roads seemed rapidly drifting into.

Andrew Lang joins the cry over "the modern destruction of Venice." In his "comments on 'The Merchant of Venice,'" which will accompany Mr. Abbey's illustrations of the comedy in the April number of *Harper's Magazine*, he says that he is not sure but that one can see a better Venice in the poet's pages than on the Adriatic. "Beautiful it still is," he continues, "but it is larger; it is very modern; it has iron-clads lying on its waters, and steam-tugs puffing on its canals. Its palaces are hotels or curiosity shops; its famous church is haunted by the most unholy *laquais de place*."

THE BLAIR BILL.

THE Senate has ordered that a vote be taken on the Blair bill on Thursday of next week. It is unlikely that this order will be changed. The measure has occupied as large a share of the time and attention of the Senate as it can fairly be regarded as having a claim to. Other business of as great public importance,—there is none of greater,—must have its share of consideration.

We beg leave to inquire of Republican Senators what they propose to do. There are some who mean to vote against the bill. Mr. Spooner and Mr. Hale, and Mr. Plumb,—possibly some others,—have spoken against it. Mr. Hawley has always been opposed to it. But there are enough, with those Democratic Senators who remain in support of this great measure, to give it a majority. Mr. George of Mississippi, said on Wednesday that he would vote for it because he thought that State needed the aid offered, and that the measure was at once constitutional, generous, and magnanimous. It is to be hoped other Senators from the South view it in the same light. If so, the desertion of Republican principles by some of the Northern Senators will not be fatal to the bill.

We say desertion of Republican principles. That is what it is. A Republican who does not support the general provisions of this measure is not true to the cardinal doctrine on which the party was organized, and by which it retains a right to live. The freedom of men, their enfranchisement, their just treatment, are no more a part of its faith than is their education, also. Mr. Spooner may find some excuse for himself, Mr. Hale may discover another, Mr. Plumb a third, and so on, but in a case where principles are involved excuses do not avail. It is idle to expect progress if illiteracy remains across the path, and it is idle to expect the removal of illiteracy with the means now at the command of the Southern States. If the Senators who are deserting their principles at this point do not know the facts, so much the worse for their intelligence: if, knowing the facts, they do not act upon them as Republican doctrine demands, so much the worse for their consistency and good faith.

THE INTOLERABLE SUB-TREASURY SYSTEM.

THERE are increasing evidences that the business of the country cannot any longer endure cheerfully, if it can endure at all, the injury done it by the Government's system of withdrawing from public use the money which represents its revenues. The *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York points out that during the month of February not less than eleven millions of dollars, net, was thus taken "from the channels of commerce,"—and taken, of course, in addition to the large sum which already the Treasury held in its silent and paralyzed hoards. Such a system, says the *Chronicle*, "in its very nature involves first withdrawing currency from commerce, and then returning it in bulk," and "cannot help producing irregularity and uncertainty, the worst hindrances to legitimate trade."

Of course, this is true. It is further true, as the *Chronicle* elsewhere says, that the business of the country is at the mercy of the Treasury; its system "may arrest the free action of commerce any month, and has the power of itself to produce a panic within almost any thirty or sixty days." It only needs that the Treasury continue to gather in its revenues and hold them, abstracting thus from the circulation of the country enough of that current of business life to cause disturbance, shock, and disaster. Nobody will pretend that there is any difficulty in the way of such a process, so long as the Government hoards, instead of depositing, its money.

Mr. Windom, as we pointed out at the time, committed a deplorable error in demanding of the national banks the money Mr. Fairchild had lent them, without substituting for the Fairchild plan one which would have its advantages and would avoid its

faults. Those faults were that the lending was a secret procedure, and rested entirely upon the preferences of the Secretary. He could have his "pet banks," he could reward political or personal friends, and he could deny to banks he did not like the share of the funds which they, as much as any, were entitled to have. But these were faults which it would have been easy to eliminate. The system need not be one either of secrecy or favoritism: it may be, on the contrary, one as public as any other operation of the Treasury, and proceeding upon a rule which will be fair to all banks and to all parts of the country. Thus amended, the plan of Mr. Fairchild would be right; and its abolishment under Mr. Windom, instead of such amendment, is a public menace now, and may be a public calamity, at any time when circumstances shall conspire to bring that about. As the New York journal declares, a panic can be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, at will. He has his hand upon the throat of the commercial situation: he needs only to tighten his grasp.

Any remedy for this most vicious situation must be of one sort, simply: it must keep the Government money in touch with the country's business,—as every other civilized nation in the world knows and practices. And while those who saw this fifty-five years ago, and who pointed out the practical impossibility of working safely the sub-treasury system which was then forced upon the country, were wrong in their conception that there must be a great Bank of the United States, in order to have a sound fiscal system, they were wrong only at that point, and at that point we have improved upon their system, so completely as to place it beyond attack. The national banks make the places of deposit which the Government needs. They are safe, they are located in every part of the country, and they are the legitimate outgrowth of business needs. To place in them the Government's balances, as Mr. Fairchild did, was sound finance, and it needed only to have been done publicly, systematically, and without favoritism.

We have already suggested that the Government's duty in this case can be discharged, and the public interests can be served, by a system of Treasury deposits with the clearing-house associations. We renew the suggestion. The clearing-houses are organized in all the cities of importance. They are at once the strongest and the most conservative feature of the national bank system, aside from the security of its circulation. They may be employed as the Government's banker with absolute safety to it, and with entire convenience to the country. The system of doing this may be made as open and candid as are the daily payments over the Treasury's counter. The Treasury, then, will not be an absorbent and a disturber of business life-blood; on the contrary, the regular and steady flow of circulation will include it, as it now includes all the other and in their aggregate infinitely greater instrumentalities of finance which have been created by commercial needs.

The suggestion, here, is to make the clearing-house associations depositaries, pure and simple. It is not proposed to lend them the funds, any more than the State of Pennsylvania, or the City of Philadelphia, lends its funds. The security is furnished by the aggregate solvency of the banks, secured and assured by their organization as clearing-houses. The deposits would be made, not with individual banks, but with the clearing-house associations, and they would arrange for themselves the custody of the funds. The whole transaction would be upon the faith and credit of the Association, and of all the banks contained in it.

We are not to overlook, in this connection, the vital relation which the national banks hold to the business of the country. As Mr. Abraham Barker pointed out in his communication addressed to THE AMERICAN, (December 17, 1889), the funds of the trust companies, and of private bankers, are deposited with the national banks. It is they who keep the country's money "over night." The explanation of this is simple; they are closest to the business movement. Other institutions may be great borrowers and great lenders; their use of money may be as large as that of the national banks, or even more considerable; but in order to be

in touch with the circulation they must employ the banks. And this adds force to the suggestion that the Government has within easy reach depositories whose employment would entirely cure the evils which business now suffers under, and which may at any time of unusual stress produce evils still greater.

RUSSIA'S ADVANCE TO SAMARKAND.¹

AMERICANS are accustomed to vast trans-continental enterprises, and at first blush the news that by the completion of the new railroad into Central Asia, St. Petersburg is linked with Samarkand, the once-renowned capital of Tamerlane, by an unbroken chain of steam locomotion, seems a mere instance of nineteenth century progress. But the successful operating of a railway from the Caspian Sea to a point within 200 miles of Herat as the crow flies, is a fact of high political significance, likely to readjust values not a little and to affect the future not alone of Asia but of Europe. Skobelev once wrote to St. Petersburg: "In Central Asia the position of affairs changes not every hour, but every minute. Therefore, I say, Vigilance, vigilance, vigilance!" The writer of the present book is equally inclined to preach the necessity of vigilance to his own countrymen, and he frankly regards the Trans-Caspian railway as a distinct menace to English possessions in India. Russia in Europe was an enemy to be dreaded; but Russia with Samarkand for a military and administrative capital, round which half of Asia revolves,—a cradle of aggressive policy and a starting point of action,—is indeed a foe at the gates.

Mr. George Curzon is a young man who has been Lord Salisbury's secretary and is a member of Parliament; and he has himself made a railway journey from St. Petersburg to Samarkand, and has formed a clear judgment upon the achievements, policy, and objects of Russia, and also upon the responsibilities of England in the crisis now presented. England has, to his thinking, lost much valuable time and opportunity, and surrendered to Russia both political and commercial advantages which she ought jealously to have guarded. In his judgment, Europeans have looked on with surprising apathy while this railway was in process of construction. Some enthusiasts have even been heard to speak of the advantage of having the line extended into India, and on this subject the author utters a loud note of warning. A junction of Russian and Indian railways would be purchased, he declares, at the cost of English security, English prestige, and England's perpetual danger.

The scheme of a continuous line from the Caspian Sea to Samarkand was at first supposed to be impracticable. It has to cover a distance of more than a thousand miles, and there were exaggerated accounts of possible accidents and stoppages of travel from natural causes, which no engineering could control. Between Askabad and Bokhara sand-dunes extend for leagues upon leagues, giving an appearance to the country of a sea of troubled waves, billow succeeding billow in melancholy succession, all lighter than the air, at the mercy of every breeze which blows, and constantly drifting across the tracks and covering them to the depth of several feet. Means have been contrived, however, to obviate this difficulty: the sand-hills contiguous to the rails have been planted with desert shrubs and vines; some spots have been irrigated, and in other places wooden palisades have been erected. Another insuperable impediment was declared to be the absence of water and fuel. But although no fresh water was to be found for a great distance along the route, and although artesian wells proved a failure in the salt deserts, the mountains at the north yielded a supply of pure water. As for fuel, the extensive oil wells which abound in these regions furnish the crude petroleum which has proved to be the most concentrated and the cheapest combustible ever discovered.

It must always be a question with lookers-on whether Russia is actuated by a clear, far-seeing policy, or whether her natural advantages are so great that the mere impulse of necessarily putting one foot before the other has carried her on to a point where her very presence seems as much of a menace as if she flashed her sword from its sheath. Certainly it might easily be argued that she has been for twenty-five years preparing to build this railroad, for each movement, no matter how trivial or incidental, has overcome some obstacle and told on the ultimate triumph. She began as soon as her energies revived after the Crimean war, to penetrate into Central Asia from the north and northwest, advancing over the Kirghiz Steppes until she had captured Samarkand and subjugated Bokhara just as she had primarily conquered Turkestan and Khokand. Then having reached the Oxus she rested there and then re-advanced from a new point of the horizon from the region of the Caspian Sea and river, and established her dominion up to Merv and beyond, until all Turkomania was hers.

Skobelev was the general who conquered Turkomania; he pursued the severest form of the Russian policy as applied to Asiatic conquest. His victories were not victories alone, but often massacres; the defeat his enemies experienced was not mere defeat but extirpation. The carnage after battles was something horrible. When the Russian columns advanced to the assault, it was with drums beating and bands playing; and it shows the indelible horror of the chastisement they inflicted as we read that years later, at the opening of the railway, when the Russian military music began to play, the Turkoman women and children raised woful cries of lamentation, and the men threw themselves on the ground with their foreheads in the dust. Skobelev's tactics were thus described by himself: "I hold it as a principle that in Asia the duration of peace is in direct proportion to the slaughter you inflict upon the enemy. The harder you hit them, the longer they will keep quiet afterwards. My system is this: To strike hard and keep on hitting until resistance is completely over; then at once to form ranks, cease slaughter, and to be kind and humane to the prostrate enemy." Thus forced into submission by terrible disaster the Orientals seem to pass at once from furious antagonism into placid acceptance of the all-powerful will of the higher power. The Russian advance into Asia has so far shown three successive stages of policy: conquest, assimilation, and consolidation. No suspicious neighbors now threaten the success of the Trans-Caspian railway. One is reminded of the dying man who was asked by the priest who shrived him whether he had forgiven his enemies; "I have no enemies," he replied, "I have killed them all."

Had the railway no strategical importance from a military point of view, it would still be a stupendous commercial enterprise. So long as caravans afforded the only means of transport there was a fixed limit to exports and imports. It was impossible for great staples to be raised with profit. As the Russians advanced, however, they introduced a system of scientific irrigation and at the same time gave broadcast great quantities of American cottonseed. The result is that the cotton crop is already large and of excellent quality. As soon as the soil is reclaimed, every kind of grain can be raised in abundance in Turkestan. Grapes, apples, pears, cherries, plums, and melons flourish, and the dried fruits are used all over Russia and Siberia. The mulberry is successful, and the silk yield is large and continually becoming larger. The export of skins, especially those called in our markets "Persian lamb," is extensive. In fact it is not easy to describe the natural wealth of these new acquisitions of Russia's, nor to put a limit to their resources. Oil wells near Samarkand are said to yield nine millions of pounds of pure oil. Yet the mineral riches are only beginning to be developed.

In return for these products of Central Asia there is, of course, a demand for European goods of all sorts; and of this import and export trade the Trans-Caspian railroad is rapidly acquiring the monopoly, carrying to Europe the cotton, raw and dyed silk tissues, velvets, sheep-skins, carpets, leather, dried fruits, goat-skins, camel's-hair, etc., and flooding the Oriental markets in return with the materials and implements manufactured by Russia. For English manufactures and products are being driven from the field where formerly they had full sway, by the effective prohibitory tariff. The proximity of Russia, the facility of transport, and the clear-sighted economic policy of the empire, link Central Asia naturally to the land of the Czar in a commercial union. But however important these considerations of trade may be, alarmists are likely to consider them minor and incidental. It is related as a significant fact that while the railway was building, the illustrated papers invariably headed their engravings showing the progress of the line with the words, "On the road to India." And Russian writers allude to a Russian invasion of India and hail the Trans-Caspian railway as a preliminary enterprise to the future campaign across the Indus.

Seven years ago, before the railway was built, an English general asked a subordinate officer to prepare a paper showing how soon the Russians could put a force of 20,000 men at Herat. Seven years ago Herat was very far from Russia; but now, as we have seen, Herat is but 200 miles from the nearest station of the Russian railroad. It can scarcely be wondered at if the author is inspired with a feeling of apprehension. A conviction of the strength of Russia, and the permanence of her conquests is the logical sequence of his observations in Central Asia—"J'y suis, j'y reste," is the watch-word of the Russian vanguard. The English in India are separated from their base of supplies by continents and oceans; the Russians, at the gates of Herat, may now be said to be still in Russia, with a continuous chain linking them to St. Petersburg. However, Mr. Curzon does not believe that so far the Russians seriously meditate the conquest of India. His view is that Russia is compelled to go forward, as the earth goes around the sun; but he evidently believes that Great Britain has a right to stop her advance, and the power, if England is only willing to exercise it.

E. K.

¹RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA IN 1889, and the Anglo-Russian Question. By the Hon. George N. Curzon, M. P. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

THE SHIFT OF NEWSPAPER OWNERSHIP.

AN interesting evidence of the way in which the daily press has developed, and in so doing has outstripped its own earnings, is afforded by the manner in which daily newspapers are now held. Confining our view to Philadelphia, it will be found that hardly one of the most important newspaper plants which were in existence twenty years ago are now the property of newspaper men. They are not journalist enterprises, but capitalist.

If we take up the *Ledger*, for example, it is well known that Mr. Childs's purchase of it was backed by capital accumulated not in journalism, but in banking. The demand made upon the *Ledger* for enlarged operations was such, even so long ago as the close of the war, that it was a good business operation to bring in a large amount of outside money and give the paper a great and immediate expansion. The new capital of Mr. Drexel had, of course, no relation whatever to the profits of the ordinary business of printing a newspaper: it was derived from entirely alien sources, and invested in this particular quarter as it might have been in any other promising enterprise.

The *Record*, which Mr. Swain established a little later, and which languished for some years, was capitalized by Mr. Singlerly. He, of course, had not been a journalist. He took hold of the paper, as a business venture. His capital had been derived from other quarters altogether, and while the plant of the *Record*, now, including its fine building, no doubt represents in part at least the earnings of the newspaper, the ownership rests in its origin on a different and completely unrelated source of profits.

Of course the *Times* is an equally strong example. The *Age*, when the Messrs. McLaughlin bought it, fifteen years ago, was at the point of death. It had just one valuable on its person,—its Associated Press franchise. The purchasers had been printers, but not journalists. They invested their accumulations in the *Times* as a business, like Mr. Singlerly was doing in the *Record*, and made it, as in his case, a matter of capital first, and then of enterprise and skill.

The history of the *Press*, after Colonel Forney's hold upon it relaxed, through his business and political embarrassments, was one of the same sort. To oblige and aid his friend, Captain Nevin, Mr. Wells gave the paper financial aid, and ultimately was drawn in to the very large,—and for the last three years quite satisfactory,—investments which he now stands for. Mr. Wells is a manufacturer of iron; he has no relation especially to journalism, any more than fifty men whom you might meet in any business place, but he represented like Mr. Drexel, Mr. Singlerly, and the Messrs. McLaughlin, the capital account which the sudden leaps of journalism imperatively called for, and without which no newspaper could hope to hold a place in the front rank.

The *Inquirer's* case is the latest. The end of the old and persistently maintained Harding ownership had come at last, when Mr. Elverson came forward to buy the paper, with his accumulated capital, made, it is true, in the newspaper business, but not in daily journalism. Mr. Harding had held on to his paper persistently, but he made nothing out of it to command public attention, and he could not, in the shadow of such enterprise as his competitors were showing, with their large accessions of outside money, hope to gain an inch of ground. So the *Inquirer*, like the others, was capitalized with new money, drawn from a different line of business.

The *North American*, the *Telegraph*, and the *Bulletin*, are doubtless the most marked exceptions to the general rule. The old property of Mr. McMichael remains in the hands of his sons, and they have boldly metamorphosed it, and adapted it, and provided it with the modern appliances. Whether it has been able from its own profits to meet the cost of these changes and expansions, is not a matter of public knowledge, or indeed of public concern. The *North American* stands as it did, the property of those who write it,—a journal of the old sort rather than the new. And much the same is to be said of both of the evening papers. The *Bulletin's* owners are the successors, in a direct and unbroken line, of those who have edited and published it from its earliest years; while Mr. Warburton continues, now, as from the first, the sole conductor of the *Telegraph*, and is easily able, no doubt, to show that the expense of developing his paper has been met from its own profits.

The old newspapers were not very far removed from any other authorship. A man started a newspaper because he wanted to say something in its columns, and he rented an office and bought a press as instrumentalities for getting his message to the public. Primarily, like a man who wrote a book, the moving cause of his procedure was his desire for a hearing,—or perhaps it would be said his wish to see himself in print. But, of course, the new regime is altogether different from that. It would be grotesque to classify the old school of journalistic owners,—say Morton McMichael, and Colonel Forney, in this city, or Horace Greeley and

Henry J. Raymond in New York,—with the present school of capitalist owners, like Mr. Wells, Mr. McLaughlin, or Mr. Elverson. The change of method is not more complete than the change of motive.

I do not wish to be understood as drawing any deductions from these facts. I merely state the facts. They seem interesting to one who is interested at all either in the profession of journalism or the business of manufacturing newspapers.

WALTER JONES.

WEEKLY NOTES.

THE practical manifestation of popular interest in the Forestry movement seems to be larger in Pennsylvania than elsewhere. Few other States have any organized Associations, though there are now movements on foot to form them in several, including New York, Ohio, and Texas. The Pennsylvania Association has maintained its vigor, and is in a situation to give active and practical support to measures that, on the one hand will prevent the wanton destruction of forests, and on the other, will encourage systematic re-planting. The Council of the Association, at a recent meeting, directed the forwarding of a letter to Mr. Husted, of the New York Legislature, supporting the bill which is pending in that body, for the preservation of the great Adirondack forests. Another proposition in hand is the securing of a subscription to endow a chair of Forestry in the University of Pennsylvania. The monthly publication of the Association, *Forest Leaves*, has become one of the most practical and most interesting periodicals relating to Forestry subjects. Among its contents has been a series of articles, by Prof J. T. Rothrock, on some of the notable trees of the country, illustrated from photographic views of his own taking. In a late issue he describes the great walnut tree on the Row farm, on the James river, in Virginia. Those interested in the Forestry movement can hardly invest a dollar better than by forwarding it as a subscription to *Forest Leaves*.

A VERY handsome gift has been made by Mrs. Tower to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, it being the fine collection of books on history and historical law, collected by her late husband, Charlemagne Tower, Esq. The collection is not large, it making about two hundred numbers, but it is composed almost entirely of rare editions, some of them unique. Included in it are a number of volumes, the original promulgations of the laws of the different American Colonies,—the only known copy, for example, of the Laws of Vermont, 1779; the first edition of the Laws of Massachusetts, 1660; the first edition of Pennsylvania Laws, 1714, and the most nearly complete set of Pennsylvania Session Laws in existence. This is a gift of which the Historical Society may well be proud, and it illustrates the increased importance of, and public confidence in, that institution.

THOSE who attended Prof. Boyesen's lecture at Association Hall, on Monday afternoon, came with the expectation of hearing a purely literary discourse, but they heard much more; indeed the Professor seemed to find the genesis of the Russian novel so inextricably interwoven with the history of Nihilism, that the predominant flavor of the lecture was political rather than literary. He accounted for the existence of Nihilism by referring to the fact that Russia has never become assimilated to the European body politic,—that she is in fact a semi-barbarous Asiatic nation, upon whom the modern thought of Western civilization has been suddenly poured, with results that must necessarily be revolutionary.

The lecturer spoke with unfeigned admiration of Tourgenieff, but awarded the laurels of the highest fame to Tolstoi, whom he pronounced the greatest of living novelists. The views which Prof. Boyesen holds with regard to the contending schools of fiction were made very plain by his remark that the "Russian novelists have long since outgrown romanticism." Clearly, he considers the ultra realism of which Tolstoi is the type as a growth,—a development from the ideals of a Tourgenieff,—an opinion in which many of his audience may have concurred, though the present tendency of the tide appears to be in the other direction.

DR. S. WEIR MITCHELL has done much to call forth the appreciation of Philadelphians, but, whether owing to the fact that poetry finds but few readers now-a-days, or to other causes, he is known outside of his profession rather as a prose writer than as a poet. Hence, many of those who went to see his "Masque," rendered as a *lever du rideau* to the performance of Mr. Barrett's company, became acquainted with it for the first time on that occasion. The attempt to present a purely poetic work upon the stage is fraught with difficulties not appreciable by anyone except the writer, who has cast his production upon lines of poetic fancy,

and the adapter, who is compelled to bend all other considerations to the overmastering requirements of a practicable arrangement. That which, in a poem, appeals directly to the intelligence, and touches the emotions immediately, can only reach them mediately (through the senses) when embodied in the form an acting play. It has been said more than once that nothing is truly a play which is not susceptible of being acted; the claim is a very specious one, but is rather too sweeping in its terms. We must distinctly recognize the existence of what is termed the "closet drama;" further, we must admit that there are certain poetic ideas and certain dramatic values (if we may borrow a painter's term), which can only be fitly developed through dialogue and scenic description, though all the while the theme may refuse to lend itself to the condensed treatment and strong contrasts necessary to a stage representation. From this it follows that many dramatic pieces, clothed in the outward semblance of plays, may be quite unactable, although their value as literature is undeniable.

* * *

DR. MITCHELL'S "Masque" is a poetic work, informed throughout with a dramatic purpose of the highest order, and it falls directly in the category of which we have been speaking. That is to say, it must be clipped and trimmed to be practicable, and every touch of the clipper and trimmer detracts from its poetic symmetry. It is an allegory whose spiritual significance diminishes as it becomes tangible. Many of those who were familiar with the work must have been conscious of this fact, as they looked upon Mr. Barrett's presentation of the piece on last Saturday night at the Park Theatre. Yet so skillfully was the staging done that the poem was marred but little and the total effect was much better than could have been anticipated. It is said that Dr. Mitchell will recast and enlarge the original work and reproduce it under the title of "The Miser."

* * *

THE members of the Contemporary Club listened with marked attention to the address of Prof. Herbert B. Adams, of Johns Hopkins University, on Tuesday evening, the subject being University Extension. Prof. Adams spoke fluently, without notes, sketching the rise and progress of the system at Oxford and Cambridge, and seeking to impress upon his audience the value of a similar plan in this country, where the need of higher education for the artisan class is more apparent even than in England. He said it was shown that the British working man is, on the whole, better educated than the American, and called upon his hearers for their interest and support in the scheme to remedy this state of affairs. Prof. Adams was followed by Provost Pepper, who took the ground that the conditions in this country were so different from those prevailing in Great Britain that our method of procedure cannot be modelled upon that of Cambridge and Oxford. He believed in a system of University Extension which would eventuate in the founding of a great non-partisan National University in the city of Washington, and incidentally expressed regret that Johns Hopkins had not been planted at the Capital instead of at Baltimore. Dr. Rhoads, of Bryn Mawr College, closed the discussion by an earnest appeal for the extension of the higher educational facilities of woman. He said that as eight-tenths of all the teaching was done by women, it was of the first importance that the source of our instruction should be elevated.

The meeting was one of the most important in the history of the Contemporary Club, and it is to be hoped may help to valuable results.

* * *

FOR the benefit of those interested in the subject, it may be stated that Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., will deliver three lectures in the University Chapel on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of next week, on the origin, contents, and history of The Talmud. Dr. Jastrow is known as a specialist of brilliancy and power, and his audiences should be large. The hour for the lectures is half-past three.

* * *

THE death of Dr. Martin B. Anderson, ex-President of Rochester University, was not an untimely event. He had served his generation in Church, State, and school nobly, identifying himself with all great causes, and making his University a place of vitalizing influence to a long series of college classes. His influence as an educator lives on in the lives of thousands who are doing their work more faithfully and with truer insight into things, because they came into contact with him. He was a progressive man of the Old School in educational matters. He had a dislike of mere specialists, who knew nothing outside their own fenced field; of book-making professors, who diverted their time and energy from their classes to keep up an unbroken series of publications; and of elective systems, which throw upon immature youths a responsibility as regards their intellectual growth, which we are taking from them in the matter of physical training. And

being a Scotch-Irishman from the old Ulster colony in Maine, he held his beliefs with tenacity and expressed them with as much emphasis as the sweetness and gentleness of his character permitted. One of his regrets was that he had not had time and strength to put on record what the Scotch-Irish have done for America.

PARIS ART NOTES.

PARIS, February 28.

HAVE we an hitherto unknown Rembrandt? You may readily imagine that I shall make no positive assertion on the subject myself when such competent authorities as Paul Mantz, Bonnat, Tony Robert-Fleury, Gérôme, Henner, and many others are unable to agree. If the artists, "experts," and critics are so divided upon the question, the opinion of a simple amateur would not have much weight. At most I might venture to say that the truth may possibly be found between the two contrary affirmations. The great painters of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries had numerous assistants, and perhaps the newly-discovered canvas may be the work of some pupil or aid of Rembrandt, retouched by the master himself. However, as this picture is now the absorbing topic in the art world, permit me to give you the history of its discovery.

A few weeks ago an elderly lady named Legrand died at Vésinet, one of the Paris suburbs, leaving an only daughter who is insane and therefore legally a minor. The sale of Mme. Legrand's property was held by order of the administration for the benefit of this surviving daughter. Among other objects were two paintings, one a false Claude Lorraine, and the other a large canvas of the Dutch school. As is customary when works of art are to be sold, an "expert" was called in; an "expert" is a man who is supposed to possess the special knowledge necessary to discern the quality of a work of art, to tell its history, its age, and to indicate an approximate value, so that the auctioneer may fix a reasonable up-set price. M. Gandouin was the expert in the present case, and in making out the catalogue of Mme. Legrand's effects he designated the large Dutch painting as follows: "Rembrandt, (school of) Jesus and the Disciples at Emmaus." M. Bourgeois, a Parisian picture dealer, had been put on the track of this painting by Mme. Legrand's physician, and on the morning of the sale he examined the canvas and concluded that it was a real Rembrandt. In order not to awaken any suspicion by his presence, the dealer employed an upholsterer of Vésinet to bid for the painting, which was started by the auctioneer at two hundred dollars. At the beginning of the sale the expert announced that although the picture was signed Rembrandt he believed it to be the work of one of his pupils. Only one other bidder made any offer and the painting was knocked down to the upholsterer for \$810. The canvas measures five feet five by three feet three and is signed and dated in the upper left-hand corner, Rembrandt f. 1656. There are four figures in the picture; in the centre an old patriarch with a long white beard, clothed in a white surplice and a chasuble embroidered in gold, blesses the meat that has been brought upon the table by a servant wearing a red tunic. To the right and left are two angels, one of whom holds a small knife in his hand. Upon the central table are a dish of meat, a cup and a pitcher, while a smaller table contains pieces of unleavened bread. The subject of this painting is supposed to be "Abraham Receiving the Angels," as it bears a striking resemblance to the work by this name in the Hermitage Palace at Saint Petersburg.

As soon as M. Bourgeois received the picture in Paris the news of its purchase was rapidly noised about among critics, artists, and dealers, and since then there has been a constant stream of visitors to see this celebrated find. Each one expresses his opinion, and I send you a few of the most important ones. M. Paul Mantz, a former government director of the Fine Arts department, speaks of the work as "marvelous" and says that the museum which can hang this masterpiece of painting and emotion upon its walls will be lucky. Bonnat, the artist, who is said to know more about Rembrandt than any other man, declares that the work is not by the great Dutch master. Certain parts of the canvas are skillfully executed, but others are extremely weak. Besides, the pictures at the Louvre, which are nearest in date to the one in question, bear no resemblance to it in design or execution. M. Tony Robert-Fleury says that if the canvas is not by Rembrandt it is certainly not by one of his pupils or rivals, for not one of them was capable of painting it. Gérôme denies the genuineness of the picture; he says that it is the work of a man of talent, but it has none of Rembrandt's vigorous and masterly manner. Waltner, the engraver who has reproduced some of Rembrandt's works, is of the same opinion as Bonnat and Gérôme. Henner is also doubtful about its authenticity. M. George Lafenestre, the curator of the Louvre, believes that the work is an original Rembrandt, and M. George, one of the members of the consulting committee on national museums, is still more affirmative. According to this gen-

tleman the painting is without any possible discussion wholly the work of Rembrandt's hand.

With all these conflicting opinions, the expert naturally holds to his first statement, while the owner of the painting is equally convinced that he has secured a real Rembrandt. He has already refused \$15,000 for the work, and holds it for a higher price; declaring, however, that he will sell it to the Louvre for less money than to any other purchaser.

The movement to present Manet's "Olympia" to the State has finally taken definite shape. The four thousand dollars needed for its purchase have been raised, and the committee has offered the painting to the Minister of Fine Arts. The prime mover in the matter is M. Claude Monet. Hearing that "Olympia" was about to be purchased by an American, he consulted a lot of Manet's friends and induced them to club together and offer the painting to the government for the Louvre, or at least for the Luxembourg. The list of donors includes the names of Braque, Duran, Cazin, Lhermitte, Lerolle, Puvion de Chavannes, Rodin, and other less known artists, together with a number of writers and amateurs, all convinced of the importance of Manet's work and of its definite triumph. These gentlemen consider that "Olympia" is one of Manet's most characteristic paintings, and in this appreciation there will be scarcely any difference of opinion. "Olympia" is certainly very Manetesque, and in its day—it dates from 1865—was roundly abused by the best critics. What sort of welcome will be given to this specimen of ultra realism by the official committee on public museums to whom the Minister has submitted the offer of M. Claude Monet and his friends? This we shall only know in two or three weeks.

A very interesting exhibition is the collection of posters made by M. Jules Cheret. Posters! yes, and if any one doubts that a veritable artist can show his talent on a street bill as well as anywhere else, he has only to look at the hundred or more brilliant samples of the colored posters that have for some years past delighted the eye of the Parisian *flâneur*. M. Jules Cheret—who must not be confounded with Cheret, the scene painter, dead a few years ago—is the lithographer who introduced the colored artistic poster into France, and transformed the street poster from a common printed bill into a work of art. Cheret not only makes the designs for his posters, but superintends the printing of them. He has solved the question of giving tradesmen and others who wish to advertise their wares on the street walls the possibility of doing so in a striking, artistic, and inexpensive manner, for he obtains his results by the simplest means. His posters are worked with three impressions: the first, in black, gives the outline, then a bright red, and finally, to tone down the harshness of this color, a blue, a green, or a yellow. Cheret's drawing, is, of course, not always correct or finished, but his work has movement and color. The artist, who is now about fifty years old, had no master. After studying the art of writing backwards on lithographic stones, he went to England where, besides working as a lithographer, he designed theatrical costumes. It was in England that he first had the idea of his colored posters, and it was English capital that first enabled him to start his establishment in Paris. C. W.

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.

At least one of the institutions of Philadelphia may be said to be better known and appreciated in Europe than in its own city, if we may judge from certain significant indications. I refer to the Academy of Natural Sciences, and I propose, for the information of our home people, to describe briefly the work this important institution has done, is doing, and proposes to do. The story of its birth and growth must be compressed into a few sentences. The Academy came into existence in the year 1812, its first fixed abode being in a small room on the second floor of a house on Second street near Race; with half a dozen members, as many periodicals as the beginning of its library, and a handful or two of scientific specimens as the nucleus of its museum. Later on it came to occupy the whole floor of a house, was incorporated and began to publish its journal of proceedings in 1817, and in 1826 gained a whole building to itself by purchasing an edifice originally used as a Swedenborgian church, at the corner of 12th and Sansom streets.

In ten years more this home of science had become too small, and the erection of a new and more spacious building was begun at the corner of Broad and Sansom streets. This was extended in 1846 to make room for the noble collection of birds presented by Dr. Thomas B. Wilson, which made it for many years the greatest ornithological museum in the world. By 1865 the child had grown into a giant, and its home was once more found to be too small for its swelling proportions. A new domicile became necessary, and a place for this was found at the corner of 19th and Race streets, a retired situation which has given much dissatisfaction to members and citizens, but which has certainly had no retarding influence upon the progress of science in Philadelphia.

In 1876 the Academy moved into its new building. Since then fourteen years have passed, and the edifice which then seemed of ample size has become too small. Out of sheer necessity the members have decided that they must have more room for the display of their treasures, and the preliminary steps have been taken towards the erection of a new edifice which, when finished, will be one of the noblest and most spacious Academies of Science on this continent.

The progress here indicated has been certainly rapid and impressive. Not eighty years have passed since the birth of the institution, and already its needs of space have increased from a modest room over a humble shop to buildings which will nearly cover a plot of ground of about 150 by 290 feet in dimensions, and will have a floor space not surpassed in any edifice of the kind in America.

It may be of interest to the reader to know the extent of the collections which have been gathered in the period named. A brief description of them must suffice. The collection of birds, formerly the largest in the world, has still few superiors, it being surpassed only in the British Museum, the Museum at Haarlem, and the Vienna National Museum. It embraces about 32,000 mounted, and 4,000 unmounted specimens, and includes the Gould collection of Australian birds, the Bonaparte collection of European birds, and the Verreaux collection of birds of Africa and Asia, with an adequate display of the birds of America.

In sea and land shells the Academy is still richer, its collection being the largest in the world, surpassing even the famous one of the British Museum. It numbers in all over 170,000 specimens, which have been tastefully arranged in their scientific order by the late learned and ardent conchologist, George W. Tryon, Jr., who added to it his own large collection. Other special features are the Swift collection and the Brown museum of West India shells.

The herbarium numbers more than 40,000 specimens of plants, being the largest in this country with the exception of that made by the late Dr. Asa Gray, at Harvard University. Of insects there are more than 50,000 specimens. Fishes, reptiles, mammals, and the lower orders of life are abundantly represented by mounted, alcoholic, and dried specimens, while the Morton collection of human skulls, embracing some 1,700 specimens, is one of great value and interest. The collection of fossils is a very important one, that of invertebrate fossils being perhaps the most extensive in the United States. It contains in all some 65,000 specimens. In mineralogy the Academy is equally rich. To its former large collection has recently been added the William S. Vaux cabinet of minerals, which is, with the probable exception of the Bement collection of this city, the most extensive and important in America, even surpassing the famous Dana collection at Yale College. The work of ancient man is also abundantly represented, the archaeological cabinet being a rich and growing one.

The most recent addition to the museum is the highly valuable scientific material collected by the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania. This material is of the utmost value and importance, and will add greatly to the attractiveness of the Academy's collections when space has been found for its display. Its possession has been the main inciting cause towards the erection of a new building, to which the State Legislature has contributed \$50,000. In the museum itself the most recent improvements have been the arrangement of a series of specimens illustrating the natural history of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the donation of Dr. H. C. McCook's cabinet of insect architecture, and the formation of a synoptical series illustrative of the whole field of zoology. These, with the new arrangement, above mentioned, of the sea-shells, and the revision of the bird collection, which is actively being made, have added greatly to the attractiveness and instructive value of the museum.

The library of the Academy has made as rapid and effective a growth as its museum. The few periodicals with which it began have expanded into a noble collection of over 32,000 bound volumes, nearly all devoted to natural history subjects, in which branch of science it is much the largest and most important library in this country. Its list of exchanges embraces nearly all the prominent learned societies of Europe and America, while in rare and valuable treatises and superbly illustrated works it is remarkably rich. In short, there is no scientific library in the United States which can compare with it in completeness and value.

The gathering of these great collections is certainly indicative of a praiseworthy scientific activity in our city. Within the short period of eighty years the Academy of Natural Sciences has grown from the humblest origin into a position of rivalry with the noblest scientific institutions in the world, and this without a penny of aid from city, state, or government, but simply through the self-sacrificing devotion of its members, the liberality of the citizens of Philadelphia, and the abundant and valuable gifts of the scientific collectors of this city. Its rival museums are those that have been richly endowed, like the Smithsonian Institution at Washington,

or that have been created by the financial support of governments, like many of those abroad. It is certainly no small credit to Philadelphia that, by the unaided efforts of its citizens, it has built up a scientific institution whose only rivals are those sustained by the funds of governments or by rich endowments.

To what, then, is due the tone of deprecation in which it has become the fashion in some quarters to speak of this institution? Some, perhaps, fancy that the Academy has settled down in the midst of its treasures like a spider among its spoils, and sunk away into the quiet sleep of self-satisfaction. If this idea is entertained, a brief statement of what the Academy is now doing may suffice to dispel it. It is true that for a number of years a spirit of conservatism reigned within its walls, and its members, absorbed in quiet, scientific work, failed to perceive that it was a duty to teach as well as to study, and that the arousing of a spirit of scientific inquiry in the community was not the least of their obligations to the city which had given birth and support to their institution. This conservatism no longer exists. The Academy has burned the bridges of old tradition behind it, and is to-day in harmony with the most advanced methods of scientific thought and work. It no longer keeps itself withdrawn from, but has come into full touch with the community at large, and is doing a work of which the majority of our citizens are probably ignorant.

This new role began with the appointment of professors, who were pledged to deliver annual courses of lectures in their several fields of science. At present there are three of these professors, the fourth, Henry Carvill Lewis, the talented young Professor of Mineralogy, having recently been lost to the Academy by death. It is hoped, in time, to extend the professorships to cover all the leading branches of science, but as the work of these scientists is necessarily given without remuneration, the process of extension must be a slow one.

In addition to the courses of lectures by the professors there has been organized an annual series of Friday evening lectures by scientists of distinction; and during the present season the Michaux lectures on Botany have been delivered by Professor Rothrock, in the hall of the Academy. These several courses of lectures are arousing a more general interest, and bringing the Academy of Natural Sciences into a much more prominent position before the public. As an important step in the same direction, it has recently been decided to give each year a number of public receptions in the hall of the Academy. The first of these was given in January of this year, and was so successful in the class of people it brought together, and the geniality and feeling of interest displayed, as to encourage a repetition of this pleasant experiment.

The great difficulty hitherto in the way of the Academy has been its necessary dependence upon gift for the increase of its collections, a condition which has caused a great duplication in some directions, while leaving many unfilled gaps in others. The need of an endowment fund for the purchase of specimens to fill these vacancies is seriously felt, the Vaux collection of minerals and the library being the only departments of the institution which are so favored. A comparatively small sum, so applied, would greatly increase the completeness of the collection. The deficiency has been partly overcome by the activity of Professor Angelo Heilprin, who within the last few years has made expeditions of special research to Florida and the Bermuda Islands, bringing back from each very important additions to the Academy's collections. He has just started on another and more important expedition of this kind, with a party of enthusiastic young students of science, his present field of exploration being the Gulf region of Yucatan and Mexico,—almost virgin ground for scientific research. His skill and activity in exploration, and the energy and experience of his assistants, give much warrant for the confidence that this expedition will prove of the utmost value to the Academy.

In conclusion, I may return to the purpose already mentioned, of covering the unoccupied ground owned by the Academy with a building which will be an ornament to Philadelphia and a monument to science. The accepted design of this edifice is the conception of the versatile gentleman already named, Professor Heilprin, and contemplates a bold and effective edifice that promises to be admirably adapted to the purpose intended, while highly attractive as a work of architectural art. The entire building, 155 by 130 feet in dimensions, is intended to form but a single room, lined on the four sides with a succession of broad galleries, between which will be a magnificent central hall about 155 feet long by 60 feet wide. Above this hall will spread an immense arching roof of glass, flooding the interior with light, and thus overcoming one of the most serious defects of the present building. Nothing so grand in its proportions or so striking in its general effect as this hall promises to be exists in any edifice in our city, while the space afforded by the galleries and the lower floor, with that of the present Academy building, will probably be sufficient to accommodate all additions to museum and library for a century to come.

In part of the space between the present and the new building it is designed to erect a lecture hall, thoroughly adapted to the purpose, and with seats for about seven hundred persons, as great a number as experience shows is likely to be drawn together by a scientific discourse. Under the lower gallery of the main building will be an abundant provision of laboratory and work rooms.

One awkward difficulty stands in the way of the completion of this design—the lack of funds. The Academy has grown somewhat richer of recent years, and in 1890, for the first time, its income promises to be equal to its expenses. But there is no surplus fund, and it must depend upon the liberality of the well-to-do citizens of Philadelphia to face this pecuniary difficulty. The work will be begun, probably, during the present month, with the sum donated by the State, and will be diligently prosecuted, in the earnest trust and confidence that adequate support will be forthcoming from the public-spirited citizens of Philadelphia, who will scarcely permit an institution in which they have always felt a quiet pride to be hampered by lack of the comparatively small sum needed, or Philadelphia to decline from the proud position which it has so far maintained in the ranks of science at home and abroad.

Since the above was written events of vital importance to the Academy of Natural Sciences have occurred, some brief account of which it may be well to add. In the spring of 1889 a proposition was made by the authorities of the University of Pennsylvania to the Academy, offering to use their efforts to raise a large building fund if the Society would consent to remove to a location contiguous to the University. This proposition was decisively declined. It has been recently renewed, but only to meet with the same fate, as the Council of the Academy and the Academy itself have voted with a very large majority against it. For the information of those who may consider this action unwise, and injurious to the interests of the institution, the principal reasons upon which it was based may be briefly given. In the first place such a change of location would be solely to the advantage of the University, in no sense to the advantage, but largely to the disadvantage, of the Academy, and the ultimate effect of it would be to reduce the Academy of Natural Sciences into a mere appendage to the University, no matter what steps might be taken to guard it against this consequence. In the second place, such a removal would, while an advantage to the University, be a decided disadvantage to the various other institutions of learning, medical and dental colleges, etc., which now make free use of the library and museum of the Academy, but would scarcely do so if it were placed under the wing of the University. Thirdly, the money offered is "in the air," and there is no satisfactory reason to believe that the University would have any particular advantages over the Academy in raising it by subscription,—the mode in which it must be obtained in either case,—while if it were in sight the Academy would not hesitate to decline it, on the ground that its use in the manner proposed would be fatal to the independence and scientific standing of the institution. Fourthly, the site offered the Academy is so inconveniently situated, so remote from the centre of population and difficult to reach, and with such undesirable surroundings, that this in itself would be a sufficient reason for declining the proposition. Other reasons influenced the Academy in its decision, but those given were the leading ones.

The proposition, as above said, has been decisively declined, and the building operations of the Academy, which have been temporarily hindered, will be commenced without delay, and prosecuted as rapidly as the funds in hand will permit, with the earnest hope that the institution will be supported in its laudable enterprise until the noble edifice projected shall be fully completed, and Philadelphia gain another worthy addition to its architectural monuments, and Science an adequate home for its treasures.

CHARLES MORRIS.

REVIEWS.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT. By John Bigelow. (American Men of Letters.) Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1890.

THE person and the literary works of William Cullen Bryant occupy a somewhat curious relation to the knowledge of the people of the United States. Neither are well known. In his lifetime Mr. Bryant would have been named promptly by any one, cultured or unlettered, critical or ignorant, who had been challenged to produce the three foremost poets of America, but it would have puzzled any but a well-informed student of our literary and biographical stores to say much concerning him beyond the two great facts that he was author of "Thanatopsis," and editor of the *New York Evening Post*. It was, indeed, one more instance where the popular estimate was a fair stroke at the truth. Mr. Bryant's most enduring work in the field of poetry was that one extraordinary, almost matchless poem of its kind, while the

one great and overshadowing circumstance of his long career was his control and direction of the strongly individualized, always important, often unsound, newspaper to which he devoted the best and largest share of his life's energies. He will be remembered as the author of "Thanatopsis" when it is forgotten that he ever made a translation of Homer, and the reflection of his character in the *Evening Post* will remain, in the history of the period during which he was its editor, as the most definite and most impressive evidence of his distinction.

Mr. Bigelow gives us in this volume an excellent piece of biographical work, and as the only other notable biography of Bryant is the extensive one by Parke Godwin, the addition which is made to the "American Men of Letters" series is both appropriate and welcome. Mr. Bigelow was for many years the associate of Mr. Bryant on the *Evening Post*, and therefore knew him well; probably no one so well equipped could have been found to prepare the book. And we say this, with the knowledge of Mr. Bigelow's limitations,—his frequent ability to see things out of proportion, and to deal with them, in season and out of season, according to the measure of his own prejudices and prepossessions.

Speaking so strongly as we have done of "Thanatopsis," it is fair to mention with it those other poems of the poet's youth which have a value and vitality nearly as great,—*"To a Water-Fowl," "The Death of the Flowers," "The Forest Hymn,"* and perhaps as many more. But all these were strictly the work of his youth, "Thanatopsis" written in the winter he spent at Williams College, the lines to the water-fowl composed as he walked over the hills in winter, at the age of twenty, and the others before he entered upon his editorial career in the *Evening Post*. He began his work there in 1828, and a year later he had acquired, through the aid of his friend Henry Sedgwick, a proprietary interest in the paper. About 1830, therefore, when he was but thirty-six years old, his period of production as a poet may be said to end. After that he became a worker, instead of an artist. His fame as a poet must rest on the poems whose list ends sixty years ago, and we must think of him as one who lived two lives,—thirty-six years of idealism, forty-eight years of toil. And however favorably we may regard his editorial labors,—estimating duly their sincerity, their earnestness, and their high literary quality,—one cannot but feel that the true Bryant, the compeer of Longfellow and of Whittier, was the boy of Hampshire, the youth of the farm and college, the law-student and young attorney, and the ill-rewarded but trustful literary worker, who with a wife and child as hostage to fortune, thought two dollars might be a proper *honorarium* for "The Death of the Flowers." One cannot fail to note how his biographer has little more to say of Mr. Bryant's poetical production, after 1830, while we are told, on more than one page, how occupied he was, day by day, with his work upon his journal. In 1837 he writes: "I should be very glad of an opportunity to attempt something in the way I like best, and am, perhaps, fitted for; but here I am a draught-horse, harnessed to a daily drag. I have so much to do with my legs and hoofs, struggling, and pulling, and kicking, that if there is anything of the Pegasus in me, I am too much exhausted to use my wings."

The students of Bryant's poetry will turn back, beyond doubt, to that which was written before he thus described himself. And they will find how early his genius was displayed. The perpetual wonder of "Thanatopsis," written by a lad of eighteen, who never had been outside his native county, receives some explanation when we know that he was writing smooth and strong verse,—his "Embargo" satire,—at thirteen. The gift of poesy was his own, as real and as vital as in either of his eminent compeers. Perhaps, indeed, it was more native and original in him than in the better educated Longfellow, with his early reflection of the European schools. Bryant's work from the first is simple, direct, and pure in form. The passage of time discovers in the best of it little redundancy or rhetorical tinsel. What could be finer, according to the severest canons, than the concluding stanza of the "Water-fowl?"

"He who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone
Will lead my steps aright."

or the lines on his sister—

"death should come
Gently to one of gentle mould like thee,
As light winds wandering through groves of bloom
Detach the delicate blossom from the tree."

It was this simplicity, directness, and purity of style, well known afterward as one of the rules which he established in the office of the *Evening Post*, which marked his best work from the beginning. His was, indeed, a direct and simple character. In his letter of 1836 to his brother in the West, when he was desiring to leave the great city whose "entire thoughts" seemed to be "given to the acquisition of wealth," he modestly relates that he may have from three

to five thousand dollars for investment, and he says to his friend Dana, about the same time, that all he desires is the certainty of a moderate subsistence,—*"for, with my habits and tastes, a very little would suffice."*

Mr. Bigelow says, and says fairly, that Bryant's early production, wonderful as it was, signified no prematurity. Whatever he wrote later was in the same key. Referring to the great poem of 1814, and to the lines on Washington's birthday, 1878, Mr. Bigelow asks: "Was there ever a more meritorious poem written by a youth of eighteen than 'Thanatopsis'?" Was there ever a nobler and more Homeric thought more exquisitely set to verse than in the three last of the following stanzas, written in his eighty-fourth year?"—

"Lo, where, beneath an icy shield,
Calmly the mighty Hudson flows!
By snow-clad fell and frozen field,
Broadening, the lordly river goes.

"The wildest storm that sweeps through space,
And rends the oak with sudden force,
Can raise no ripple on his face,
Or slacken his majestic course.

"Thus, mid the wreck of thrones, shall live
Unmarred, undimmed, our hero's fame,
And years succeeding years shall give
Increase of honors to his name."

LITERARY LANDMARKS. A Guide to Good Reading for Young People, and Teacher's Assistant. By Mary E. Burt. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Miss Burt writes to save others the trouble and the waste of time and money she underwent in finding her way into literature. She finds that everybody admits that reading is an essential part of education, but nobody seems to know just how to fit it into school-work to the best advantage, and most people have very confused ideas as to what should be the object kept in view in the selection of books for the young. Believing she has reached some well founded conclusions on these points, she unburdens her mind in a very lively, well-written, and suggestive little book.

She repudiates the school "reader" as a basket of disjointed fragments chiefly, and after it she sends all sorts of epigrammatic writing, which tries to put the wisdom of the world into statements of two lines in length. Also those books of science which cut the world up into isolated departments, and miss sight and sense of the connection of things. She would begin with imaginative literature, especially the best poetry, meaning that which addresses itself with most power to the growing mind of youth. By these she does not mean any namby-pamby verse. *Æschylus*, *Dante*, *Wordsworth*, and *Browning* are upon her list, and she finds the highest use in all of them, while she carefully classifies the material thus to be used, with reference to the grade of development in the children, and gives hints of the best method. From these she advances to Science, Geography, and Travels, and then to History and Biography, concluding with Utilitarian Literature, which children may want to aid them in their childish inventions.

She appends a list of the books referred to, admitting that she knows some of them only by report. We find the list both defective and redundant for its purpose. Neither the Bible nor any part of it is included,—not even Matthew Arnold's "Great Prophecy of Israel's Restoration," which he prepared expressly as a literary text-book for the schools, with Miss Burt's object exactly in view. And yet the literary value of a close study of the Bible is beyond estimate, as Coleridge, Ruskin, Arnold, and Huxley all assure us. Had the author excluded it because she thought best to avoid debated ground, something might be said, especially as she is a Chicago teacher and the schools of that city are thoroughly secularized. But when we find in the same list Clodd's "Childhood of the World," Simmons's "The Unending Genesis," John Fiske's "Cosmic Philosophy," his "Destiny of Man," and his "Myths and Myth-makers," Herbert Spencer's "Data of Ethics," and his complete works, and Huxley's "Man's Place in Nature," it is not possible to accept that explanation. Not only theology, except the "Koran" and the "Pilgrim's Progress," but all philosophy in the higher sense is ignored, or is represented only by Plato and Fenelon's obsolete and inaccurate "Lives of the Philosophers," while Edwin Arnold's "Light of Asia,"—an unhistorical picture of Buddhism, in halting verse,—is recommended for study.

Equally grave almost is the omission of nearly all that literature which records or reproduces in modern forms the beliefs of our own forefathers. The Edda and the Sagas are represented by Mr. Morris's "Lovers of Gudrun," and Miss Aubrey Forrestier's studies of the *Nibelungenlied*. And of early English literature apart from the poets, there is nothing but the "Pilgrim's Progress" and Pepys' "Diary." In fact the pabulum for the imagination is almost entirely classic or modern.

For other reasons we would have omitted that "inspired blackguard," Omar Khayyám; also Mr. Swinburne's poems; also Ingraham's "Prince of the House of David." And we would have added Plutarch's "Lives" in Clough's edition; Johnson's "Lives of the Poets," in Matthew Arnold's selection; Borrow's "Lavengro" and his "Bible in Spain;" De Quincey's "Spanish Nun," and his "Flight of a Tartar Tribe;" and some of Richard Jefferies's and Grant Allen's books, notably "Colin Clout's Calendar" by the latter.

A LONDON PLANE-TREE, and Other Verse, by Amy Levy. [Cameo Series. Vol. IV.] Second Edition. London: T. Fisher Unwin.

This new member of a pretty series,—pretty with the exception of the lettering on the back,—is the fourth and last volume from the pen of a young London authoress, two of which were novels. We presume from the name that she was a Jewess, and this suggests a comparison with our American Emma Lazarus. But it would require a subtler analysis than ours to discover the elements common to the two. Neither in the selection of her themes nor in the treatment of them does Miss Levy show her kinship with the Prophets and the Psalmists, as Miss Lazarus did. To go deeper still, the English singer has lost that faith which gave her best vitality to the American. Her verse is the cheerless singing of an orphaned soul, which wanders through a world of desolated faith, and looking up for the divine eye, sees only the empty death's eye-socket. The name of God occurs in her poems only as an exclamation, to lengthen out a line with more of emphasis. And two cheerless mottoes, selected from Omar Khayyám, announce her utter dissatisfaction with a world of disappointments and partings, and her despair of finding any intelligence at the heart of it all. This surely were a mood for silence and not for song, since song was devised to convey an intenser impression of insight and faith than measureless prose is equal to. But there is a whole school of poets, who are borrowing this vessel of the sanctuary of life to carry in it the bitter waters of their own desolation.

Not that the book is barren of good. Miss Levy has a genuine feeling for the beauty of detail in our helpless and hopeless world, and, better still, a hearty response to human friendship. Her creed is given in four lines of the dedication:

"Evil I see, and pain; within my heart
There is no voice that whispers: "All is well."
Yet fair are days in summer; and more fair
The growths of human goodness here and there."

Whether such poetry were worth the printing, every one must judge for himself.

BRIEFER NOTICES.

THE kindly but unobtrusive social ministrations of Mr. M. J. Savage are well known in a cultured if limited circle, principally of New England Unitarianism, but which is evidently widening. Another of Mr. Savage's books has just been put forth, "Helps for Daily Living," (George H. Ellis, Boston), and it will be found as earnest and strong as its predecessors. The spirit of the book is indicated in its dedication, "to those who, knowing they can help but little are still ready to help all they can." This unassuming gospel is preached vividly by Mr. Savage, and it must be that it will here and there fall upon receptive ears. Among the principal titles of chapters are "Life's Aim and Meaning," "Petty Worries," "The Problem of Evil," "Self and Others," and "The Commonplace."

"In Thoughtland and Dreamland," by Elsa D'Esterre-Keeling (T. Fisher Unwin, London), is an unconventional book which will commend itself to readers of feeling and taste. It consists of a number—about sixty—of little tales, poems, sketches, "talks," pictures of town and country life, etc.; some less than a page in length, none more than three or four pages long. A few titles may serve to give an idea of the contents: "Going out Governessing," "The Girl Model," "Fairy Sweet Sound," "Blinded by a Rose Branch," "Love-making in Paddy Land," "A Talk with a Flower Lover," etc. The sketches are witty, pathetic, pointed, and the book is original in design and carried through with a light but firm touch.

Professor Edward S. Joynes, of the University of South Carolina, has added another to the many German Readers whose number indicates the growing interest in the literature of the Fatherland. It is meant for beginners, to lead them on from the simplest exercises in translating short stories to the rendering of average specimens of prose and poetry. The selections have been made with admirable judgment, so that from the very first each of them has its own interest, and several,—for instance, Halm's

"*Mein Herz, Ich will dich fragen*,"—are admirable as instances of both beauty and simplicity. To accustom the eye to all ways of printing German, some of the selections are printed in Roman type, and there are six pages of letters given in German script. The notes and vocabulary leave nothing to be desired, and we may fairly envy this generation its access to German by paths so much more pleasant than there were open a quarter of a century ago. (D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.)

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

UNDER a recent decision of the Post-office Department a premium list cannot be admitted as a supplement to a publication when the same is mailed as second-class matter.

The annual spring trade book sale will be held at the rooms of George A. Leavitt & Co., New York, in the second week in April.

Ginn & Co. have nearly ready "A Directional Calculus," by E. W. Hyde, professor of Mathematics in the University of Cincinnati.

Edmund Gosse intends to write a life of his father, Philip Gosse, the naturalist.

Messrs. Rivington propose publishing a set of cheap classical texts for use in schools and colleges.

The University of Alabama has adopted Hannis Taylor's work on "The Origin and Growth of the English Constitution" as a text book, and conferred the degree of LL. D. on the author.

The "Life of the Rev. J. G. Wood," the naturalist, upon which his son, the Rev. Theodore Wood, has been for some considerable time past engaged, is now nearly ready for publication by Messrs. Cassell & Co. It will give an account of the popular writer in his threefold capacity of clergyman, author, and lecturer, together with a full description of his private life.

The announcement was made last week that the Philip H. Welch memorial fund had been completed, the handsome total of nearly \$26,000 having been subscribed. The contributions vary in amount from fifty cents to \$5,000, and the contributors number over six hundred. The chief credit for the result is due to Mr. Edward P. Clark, treasurer of the fund. The New York Tribune says: "Such a tribute to a newspaper writer who was just beginning to make a personal reputation, has never been known before."

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. announce for early publication a large work on "Indigenous Flowers of the Hawaiian Islands," with descriptions by Mrs. Francis Sinclair, and forty-four plates painted in water colors.

Bishop Lightfoot's literary remains are far more extensive than had been expected. He has left an unfinished work on the Northumbrian Saints, a much-enlarged edition of "Clement," a series of elaborate notes on the Epistles of St. Paul, some notes on Æschylus, and a sufficient number of manuscript sermons to fill several volumes.

A study of "The Source of the 'Ancient Mariner,'" by Ivan James of South Wales University, is to be published at Cardiff. Mr. James argues that the source of the poem, of which Wordsworth gave one version and De Quincey another, is to be found in the "Strange and Dangerous Voyage of Captain Thomas James," printed in London in 1633.

P. Blakiston, Son & Co., have ready a new Medical Dictionary, by George M. Gould, M. D. It will be a compact one-volume book, containing several thousand new words and definitions, collected from recent medical literature, while the total number of words is beyond that in any similar book. It includes also other collateral information.

M. T. Richardson & Co., New York, will publish shortly a collection of Southern songs, camp-fire, patriotic, and sentimental, compiled by W. L. Fagan, an ex-officer of the Confederate army.

T. Y. Crowell & Co. have in preparation Von Sybel's "History of the Founding of the German Empire," by William I., translated by Professor Perrin, formerly of Göttingen, and now of Boston University.

A book from which much may be expected will be Guy de Maupassant's "Pierre and Jean," translated by Hugh Craig, with a preface by the author, and with illustrations by Ernest Duez and Albert Lynch. Rutledge & Sons will be the publishers.

By the death and will of Dr. Westland Marston, Mrs Louise Chandler Moulton comes into possession of the type-written and other original writings of his son, the late Philip Bourke Marston, together with £200, and she is understood to be editing some of the poems hitherto unpublished for a volume that is to appear shortly. This legacy Philip Marston himself left to Mrs. Moulton; but so long as his father lived she refused to receive it.

Colonel T. W. Higginson and Mrs. S. A. Bigelow have in preparation a volume of sonnets by American writers. There will be about 250 examples, annotated.

Bret Harte has finished a novelette with the title "A Sappho of Green Springs." Another new tale of Mr. Harte's, "A Waif of the Plains," is to be published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. this month.

Professor Dowden has edited and is about publishing Wordsworth's "Lyrical Ballads."

The National University of Chicago announces a Spanish grammar on a novel plan, by Professor Schele de Vere of the University of Virginia.

John Wiley & Sons have in preparation the following: "Reflections on the Motive Power of Heat," by Sadi Carnot, translated and edited by Professor R. H. Thurston, of Cornell; "Sugar Analysis," by F. G. Weechman, Ph. D., of Columbia College, and "The Logic of Algebra," by Ellery W. Davis.

Miss Katherine Pearson Woods is now announced as the author of the striking novel "Metzeroth, Shoemaker." Miss Woods was born in Wheeling, in 1853, and lives in Baltimore. She is a strong believer in what is called "Christian Socialism."

"Heroes and Martyrs of Invention," by George M. Towle, will be published at once by Lee & Shepard.

Dr. Martineau is bringing out a new work, "The Seat of Authority in Religion." It is described as representing the author's attempt to make clear to himself the ultimate ground of pure religion in the human mind, and the permanent essence of the religion of Christ in history.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

THE *Cosmopolitan* magazine makes several interesting announcements concerning its April issue: Mr. Murat Halstead is to begin his department, reviewing current events; Mr. Thomas Nelson Page will have a long story of Virginia plantation life, before the war; and Professor Arthur Sherburne Hardy will contribute a "Dickens-like characteristic sketch." There is nothing trivial about any of these details. The *Cosmopolitan* also announces that it has offered a premium of \$200 for the best design for public winter bath-houses, for the poor of large cities. It considers that the poor ought to wash in cold weather as well as warm, and remarks that while some of the larger cities have provided summer bath-houses, it remains a matter of fact that there is no place where the poorer class of people can go in winter to bathe.

The *Maryland Gazette* of Annapolis, it is now about settled, is the oldest newspaper now published in the United States. The first number appeared January 17, 1745.

The "History of the 'Gentleman's Magazine'" has been written by W. Roberts, and will appear serially in *The Bookworm*, beginning this month. It will deal with editors and various phases of the venerable periodical, and will also give attention to predecessors and rivals.

The *Westminster Review* will in future be published by Mr. Arnold, instead of by Messrs. Trübner. This change is indirectly due to Mr. Knowles, of the *Nineteenth Century*. Messrs. Kegan Paul, the publishers of the latter periodical, are under contract with Mr. Knowles not to publish any other 2s. 6d. magazine. Messrs. Trübner and Messrs. Kegan Paul have now amalgamated, and hence the *Westminster* has had to go elsewhere.

Short Stories, a monthly magazine of select fiction, is announced by "The Current Literature Publishing Co." of New York. Each issue will contain twenty-five stories. The first number will appear April 10.

Edward Bellamy is to be editor-in-chief of *The Nationalist*. The announcement is expected to give a great impetus to "the cause" of Socialism.

ART.

MR. DANA'S WATER COLORS AT THE ART CLUB.

THE exhibition with which Mr. Charles E. Dana has hung the fine new gallery of the Art Club, strikes the most refreshing note that has been sounded in Philadelphia for many a day, and well indeed will it be if the agencies which the Club represents can be the means of indefinitely prolonging it, as the most energetic and hopeful of its managers seem determined that it shall be prolonged.

It is the first "informal" exhibition which has ever been held at the Club. The expression is used advisedly, and with the memory of other so-called informal exhibitions still fresh. The others have not been informal, at all; they have only been called so, because a rose by any other name would not smell as sweet.

There has really been just as much fuss made over them; just as many circulars issued; just as much drumming up of the New York fellows to coax them to send over something to make the thing go, as the most formal and pretentious exhibitions find it necessary to resort to,—the drumming as aforesaid always having to be employed because as no pictures are ever sold in Philadelphia, people in other cities long ago became very indifferent,—to put it in the mildest possible language,—about exhibiting here.

But this is really an informal exhibition. It gives itself no airs of any kind, the use of the gallery for other purposes, ordinary or extraordinary, is not interfered with in the slightest degree. There have been no juries, or hanging committees; there are no favored ones whose pictures are on the line and no great army of the disgruntled whose works have been rejected or skied. A member of the Club has taken from his portfolios a hundred and twelve of the pictures which he has painted during the four or five years that he has spent abroad and nailed them up without frames on the walls of the gallery to show his friends,—who are many,—how he has been spending his time while he was away. That is all.

And the pictures themselves are as refreshing as the manner of their exhibition. Probably no other aquarellist in America could make a display at once so varied and so meritorious. There are some figure studies which are delicately handled and are full of grace and vivacity, and there are dark mountain gorges that are boldly and strongly painted, and dainty bits of sunny Normandy, and cool green corners of England, and pathetic shrines by deserted mountain paths, and treasures of the picturesque beauty of mediæval towns that have been islanded in Switzerland all these years that have seen the rest of the world flooded with improvement, lovingly and faithfully portrayed. The East is represented, too,—the stately architecture of Cairo, and the life of its crowded streets, are drawn with a sure and sympathetic hand, and the blaze of their light and the glow of their color are brilliantly and truthfully reflected here.

It seems almost superfluous to select for special mention any particular works in a collection of this character, for although the pictures are not of equal interest,—that would be impossible, of course,—there is yet about the exhibition as a whole so distinct and definite a character, an aim so well defined and methods which represent so confident and settled an artistic purpose (a quality extremely rare among our painters, as I have said more than once in this column of *THE AMERICAN*), that it seems the fairest and most intelligent way to judge it collectively.

I cannot refrain, however, from calling especial attention to the large "Looking down the Hill, Lynmouth, Devonshire," which is wonderfully rich in color, with the soft, velvety browns of its thatched roofs, and the deep and luscious and infinitely varied greens of its clustering foliage. "Gruyères," an exquisite picture of this delightful town, which hangs close by, is noticeable as well, and so are the studies of the "City Gate at Gruyères," "On the Place, Gruyères," "Caloges, or Roofed Boats on the Beach at Etretat," "Old Houses at Morat," "Sketches on the Walls at Morat," which show these old walls as they have remained unchanged ever since the battle with the Burgundians in 1476, and along with several beautiful studies at St. Maurice in the valley of the Rhone, one or two of the old chapels being especially interesting, a most touching picture of the old abandoned chapel at Gruyères where the victims of the plague were buried in the 17th century.

The charm of the pictures painted in the Orient is undeniable, but I think Mr. Dana is at his best in the Swiss and English scenes. This is possibly not because his power or his versatility is tested any more fully among these last, or because they are more interesting as subjects, although it seems to me there is something to be said in favor of both these conclusions; but it is certainly in connection with these that the freshness of the impression which this exhibition makes is most intimately associated. They are more out of the beaten track,—strange as this may seem to those who have always regarded Switzerland as forming the principal part of the landscape painter's stock in trade wherever he sets up his shop,—and the character which has attracted Mr. Dana and found so good an interpreter in him is by no means the same as that with which the just-mentioned shelves were so well laden before.

And then on purely technical grounds there is a good deal to be said for these aquarelles. They are so consistent in method, so simple and direct in treatment, so free from tinkering and retouching, the sweep of the full brush is so sure, and the flood of wet color so obedient and so true, that those who have learned enough to know how hard it is to make pools of colored water behave like that have only praise to bestow.

L. W. M.

SCIENCE NOTES.

THE report of the State (Pennsylvania) Weather Service for January shows that the mean temperature for the month, determined from 64 stations, was 37.7°, which is about 11° above the normal. The month was the warmest known in the State since January, 1880. The mean pressure and average rainfall were about normal, though, in the case of the latter, the western part of the State received an excess of precipitation and the eastern portion showed a deficiency.

As shown by the Pilot Chart of the North Atlantic Ocean, the month of January was remarkable for the number of storms which have prevailed in that part of the ocean, and directly in the lines of the steamship routes. The majority of the storms were found to have developed inland, moving eastward from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the valley of the St. Lawrence. The chart also shows the ice season to be one of the earliest on record, much ice being reported since the 5th. This is due in a great measure to the prevalence of northerly gales east of Labrador.

The United States Geological Survey (Mining Statistics) has received a report upon the occurrence of precious stones within the United States, by Mr. Geo. F. Kunz. The principal localities where precious stones are sought are Mount Mica, Paris, Maine; and Stony Point, North Carolina. Tourmaline is frequently found at Mount Apatite, Auburn, Maine, and Zircon and other rare minerals are obtained from several localities in North and South Carolina and Kentucky. The U. S. National Museum contains a collection of about 1,000 specimens of native precious stones, which is the most complete of its kind in the country.

The Smithsonian Institution has lately issued a series of "Accounts of Progress during the year 1886," in different fields of scientific investigation. They include geology, vulcanology, and seismology, North American palæontology, geography, and exploration, physics, (by Prof. Geo. F. Barker, of the University of Pennsylvania), chemistry, mineralogy, zoology, and anthropology. The accounts naturally fall into the form of a bibliography with expositions of important publications; most of them also include a necrology. The tardiness of the appearance of these publications detracts much from their value.

Late bulletins of the U. S. National Museum are on the "Cradles of the American Aborigines," by Otis T. Mason, an illustrated study of the forms of cradles used by the different tribes; a study of preparations used for the preservation of museum specimens from insects and the effects of dampness by Walter Hough; a study of the use of shells as primitive money in this country and elsewhere, with nine plates, by R. E. C. Stearns.

Prof. J. D. Dana has in preparation a new study of the "Characteristics of Volcanoes," with much new material from observations of volcanic phenomena at the Hawaiian islands. A new edition of the same author's "Coral and Coral Islands" is announced by Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co.

The total disappearance of the bird known as Pallas's Cormorant from the North Pacific Ocean corresponds to the often-mentioned extinction of the Great Auk from the North Atlantic. Only four specimens of the Cormorant are known to exist in museums. Mr. Leonhard Stejneger, of the Smithsonian Institution, in 1882, was so fortunate as to find a series of bones belonging to the bird, near the northwest extremity of Behring Island. A description of these, together with a history of the Cormorant, which was a large and handsome bird, has been published by the Smithsonian Institution.

The *Annalen der Hydrographie*, published by the German Admiralty, contains a paper on the dependence of the force of winds upon the surface over which they blow. The difference in the force of winds on sea and land was especially investigated by the author, Dr. Van Bebber. The tables show that the strong winds coming from the sea are on an average one degree of Beaufort's scale (1-12) heavier than those coming from the land; with lighter winds, the difference amounts to two degrees of the same scale.

The English Parliament has lately refused a railway company right of way through public lands near the Observatory of Greenwich, on the grounds that the tremors of the earth produced by the passage of trains destroy the accuracy of observations made with many instruments and make observations with others wholly impossible. A series of experiments made in 1888 showed great disturbance to be felt at a distance of 570 yards from the train, and considerable vibration at a distance of one mile. The interference with the work of the Observatory at present is not serious. At both Paris and Berlin, traffic has been allowed to make certain classes of observation impossible.

The late Professor von Quenstedt, who died on the 21st of December, 1889, was (says *Nature*) the most famous of German palæontologists. He did much important work in mineralogy also. His principal works are that on "*Der Jura*" and the "*Hand-buch der Petrefactenkunde*," a new edition of which was published in 1885.

ORIENTAL NOTES.

IN the December number of the *Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*, Rev. C. J. Ball continues his comparison of Akkadian and Chinese. Rev. W. Houghton concludes that the camel was known to the early Egyptians.

Mr. J. C. Pilling, chief-clerk of the Bureau of Ethnology, has further enriched American linguistics by his bibliographies of the Muskogean and Iroquoian Languages. His work has been done with the most scrupulous care, and in addition to their intrinsic worth his pamphlets are of value as offering a model for all compilers of bibliographies.

The *Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology* for January contains the report of the officers made at the anniversary meeting, and a Babylonian astronomical paper by Robert Brown, Jun.

Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, in a paper read before the American Philosophical Society, presented some linguistic proofs of the theory he has advanced that the Etruscans were an offshoot of the Lybians or Numidians of North Africa. The linguistic material compared consists chiefly of proper names.

Mr. Albert S. Gatschet of the U. S. Bureau of Ethnology contributes an article on Sex-denoting Nouns in American Languages to vol. XX. of the *Transactions of the American Philological Association*. C. A.

THE DAILY NEWSPAPER'S CONTENTS.

The Beacon, Boston.

THE *Herald*, last Sunday, entered into an elaborately illogical argument in defense of the inattention, which it, as well as most of the other daily papers, pay to the proceedings and debates in Congress. We say illogical, because, beginning with a reference to the "complaints that the proceedings of Congress are not more fully reported," it replied that "the press publishes what is for its interest to publish. Its interest is to publish what the public desires to read." Now the existence of a "complaint" because Congress is not more fully reported seems at least an indication of one thing that the public desires to read,—an indication which the press does not heed. The *Herald* further attributes the complaint to an idea either that the press is under an obligation to Congress to report its proceedings, or that members of Congress know better how to run newspapers than editors do. If the *Herald* can see nothing but this in the complaint, it must be because it is wilfully blind. To us it seems extremely obvious that when a newspaper is constantly excusing itself for printing trash by the plea that it must publish what its readers wish to read, it invites its readers to remonstrate when it prints what they do not wish to read, and also,—as they say in the stores,—if they want anything they do not see, to ask for it. In fact, when an editor admits that what he prints is selected for him by the taste of his readers rather than by his own judgment of what he ought to print, he forfeits the right to become dignified or fussy when some one has the impertinence to take him at his word.

But perhaps it is not quite fair to accept the statement that the reader's wish governs the editor, too literally. There is probably at least a grain of truth in the *Herald's* remark that the press "gives preference to one kind of news over another solely at its discretion." This means that the reader does not control, but that the editor does. It means, in concrete form, that the opinions of a very large number of college presidents and editors upon the generous proposition of the *Herald* to give scholarships, are of greater importance than the doings of the national legislature. As six columns of base-ball news are to one-fourth of a column of congressional proceedings, so is the importance of the "national league" to that of the body which represents all the people and all the States of the Union. When we get a newspaper to acknowledge that its choice of matter is made "solely at its discretion," we get rid of the fiction that the conductor of the paper is constantly endeavoring to find out what its readers want, and "to give 'em plenty on't." As a matter of fact,—and we do not think we betray a secret in saying it—the editor does not possess the means of discovering what his readers desire. He guesses at it. A horrible murder has taken place, and the people are excited about it. An editor finds that the issue containing an account of it sells freely. Has he a right to conclude that murder news is what his readers crave most of all? Of course not. But too frequently he draws that inference and acts upon it. The only basis

he has, in any event, for a judgment, is the sale of his paper, and that is a most untrustworthy basis.

To return to the question which gives rise to the discussion. Granting it to be true that most people care little about the proceedings of Congress, why is it that they do care so little? Very largely because they have so little opportunity to become interested in what goes on at Washington. The *Transcript* is to-day the only Boston paper that attempts to give a connected report of congressional proceedings, and we do not know of one New York paper that does it. But you can find in every paper a full report of every debate in the British Parliament upon any phase of the Irish question. Now as a practical matter we know of one gentleman who, until a year ago, cared nothing whatever about the Irish matter who has become absorbingly interested in it, simply because, outside of murders and fires and personal gossip, the Irish question was the only topic upon which he could get regular and full reports from his newspapers. And therein is the whole secret of the matter. A man who finds in his daily newspaper day after day nothing but a calendar of crime and a full account of a ball match, will be forced to read what the paper contains. His taste will thus be formed, and he will soon find himself begrudging the space which the conductor of the sheet doles out to such idle stuff as debates on constitutional questions or the tariff. The same rule holds with respect to editorial matter. The editor who can dismiss the events of empires in a two-line paragraph soon accustoms his readers to snap judgments on all topics, and then he tells the truth when he says that they do not like long discussions. But if he had accustomed himself to studying questions deeply and to reasoning upon them profoundly, he would soon have aroused the interest of his readers in serious matters; and then they would be as impatient of flippant and dogmatic assertion in place of argument as they now are of an editorial on any subject that extends beyond two inches in length.

This is a great and a serious question, and one that ought to be seriously considered. Our modern newspapers are big and they are filled with matter. But the quality of the matter, both in subject and in treatment, is rapidly deteriorating. And as the newspapers are the only educator on the topics of the day which reaches the most of the people, the American public is losing the ability to think deeply and wisely upon the great questions of government. In many important respects there is no paper in Boston half so good as the old *Advertiser* was under Nathan Hale, and there is not a paper in the country that wields one-tenth of the influence that the *New York Tribune* had in the days of Horace Greeley.

CRITICAL AND OTHER EXCERPTS.

THE RECORD IN THE BRAIN.

Dr. H. C. Wood, in *The Century*.

ALL persons are consciously and unconsciously molding in their brain cells records innumerable. Things that we reckon not of leave their impress there; stamp comes upon stamp like the various writings in an old palimpsest, in which the lower writings seem entirely obliterated until they are revealed by the processes of the antiquarian. So when the vision of the higher centers is sharpest it can see through the maze, and it may in a moment decipher the records of a lifetime; or when the restraining influence of the higher centers has been removed during delirious unconsciousness, muttered words, broken sentences, or clearly spoken periods, and mayhap even acts, give to bystanders glimpses of the passing visions. When we are trying to recollect a thing, we are simply searching here and there among the records in the brain to see if by chance we can find the leaf that we want to read. What an index catalogue is to the searchers in a library, that to the searcher of brain records are the laws of association; and precisely as a purely alphabetical or arbitrary catalogue may assist the student, so may an artificial system of mnemonics assist the brain-delver. The separateness of memory and consciousness is also illustrated by some of the extraordinary phenomena which are connected with the so-called local memories. Among the local or isolated memories the most distinct and sharply cut is the memory for words. The forms of aphasia known as word-blindness and word-deafness are very strange. The sufferer from word-blindness can write and will understand what is said to him; he will talk to you and perhaps talk you to death; but hand him a book, a newspaper, or even the letter he himself has written, and he cannot read a word. Thus an active man of business having written a letter, giving directions for an important matter, attempted to read it, in order to see if it was correct, but was astounded to find that he could not make out a single word; he had been suddenly stricken with word-blindness. The sounds of the words and the words themselves had remained to him, but the recollection of the written forms of the words was gone. In a case of word-deafness the person can talk and can write, but al-

though his hearing is perfect he cannot recognize the spoken words. The sound of the voice is plain to his sense, but conveys no thought to him.

CHEAPER WHISKEY WILL MAKE MORE DRINKING.

Rev. Howard Crosby, in *The Arena*.

MR. GEORGE tells us that if we made rum free, drunkenness would not increase. That is to say, that if we multiplied the facilities of getting drunk, and the temptations to drink, there would be no more drinking! He also affirms that by making rum cheap the treating habit would be weakened! And then again he declares that if there were no restriction there would be no saloons! These assertions seem to us so wild that we hardly know how to reply to them. Are there not thousands of young men who are led into the snare of drinking because the saloon is open to them on every corner, and their companions can thus readily invite them to a drink? Would not a reduction of the number of saloons reduce this evil? Suppose that New York City, instead of having 6,811 saloons had only 1,000, would not the cutting off of 5,811 lessen the temptation? Of course the hardened drinkers would be the same as ever and find their way to the saloons remaining, but we plead the cause of thousands who are not hardened drinkers and who can be saved.

Then to imagine that when whiskey becomes cheaper treating will be less, is an inexplicable paradox. The drinker will only be glad that he can treat with less injury to his finances. It is not the high price of the liquor that causes the treating, it is the good fellowship and the love of liquor combined, and the lowering of the price would not affect either. Water cannot be compared with liquor, as Mr. George makes the comparison. No one would treat in water, if you made water to cost so much a glass. So the argument that if whiskey were as cheap as water no one would treat in it, is absurd. It is the character of whiskey as exciting that makes it a treating article. Make whiskey cheaper and you will necessarily strengthen, and not weaken, the treating habit.

IDEALS AND RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY.

Col. T. W. Higginson, in *Harper's Bazar*.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, like most Englishmen of conservative proclivities, thinks that we should be better off if we had in this country a better supply of "class distinctions." He thinks that these distinctions supply to Englishmen "respect for authority, and certain personal ideals which they follow devotedly." There is, no doubt, something to be said in defense of respect for authority, but everything depends upon the source whence it proceeds. As a rule, the rich, the contented, the prosperous, think that the authority should be their own or that of their friends. The poor, the obscure, the discontented, are less satisfied with this assignment of authority. . . . If the enthusiasm be greater in England, so is the hostility; no American statesman, not even Jefferson or Jackson, ever was the object of such utter and relentless execration as was commonly poured on Gladstone in England a year or two ago in what is called "the best society," where Sir Edwin Arnold's ideals are supposed to be most prevalent. No class distinctions can do anything but obscure such ideals as this. The habit of personal reverence—such reverence, for instance, as the college boy gives to a favorite teacher—is not only independent of all social barriers, but makes them trivial. I remember, that, some ten years ago, when I was traveling by rail within sight of Princeton College, a young fellow next me pointed it out eagerly, and said to me, "I suppose that there are in that college two of the very greatest thinkers of modern times." I asked their names, knowing that one of them would, of course, be Dr. McCosh, and receiving as the other name that of a gentleman of whom I had never heard. Such and so honorable was the enthusiastic feeling expressed by President Garfield toward Mark Hopkins—that to sit on the same log with him was to be in a university,—or the feeling that the Harvard students of forty years ago had toward James Walker. Compare this boyish enthusiasm with the delight of Sir Walter Scott over the possession of a wineglass out of which George IV. had drunk when Prince Regent; and remember how he carried it home for an heirloom in his family, and sat down on it and broke it after his arrival. Which was the more noble way of getting at a personal ideal? "There is no stronger satire on the proud English society of that day," says Thackeray, "than that they admired George."

IS AMERICAN HUMOR OF GOOD QUALITY?

Scribner's Magazine.

MR. HERBERT SPENCER declares that the American type has not yet appeared; but no one, probably, would consider it imprudent to wager a large sum that when it does, one of its most salient traits will be humor. Humor, indeed, is a salient trait of the type which, according to Mr. Lowell's "Commemoration Ode," we

have already developed; and it is perhaps the one characteristic of the ideal therein celebrated which has of late years grown rather than atrophied. Our public men at least that is to say, perhaps more frequently recall "the first American" in being "reminded of little stories" than in any other way. Except by having demonstrated the very noteworthy ability to make a great deal of money, there is at present surely nothing by which a man so readily wins the admiration and envy of his fellows as by being successfully "funny." Society is honeycombed with mirth. With many of the men, and nearly all the unmarried women, who compose it, being amusing is a constant preoccupation. The coincidence of the final disappearance in New York of negro-minstrelsy with the culmination of the art of after-dinner speaking is extremely suggestive. Of old, this kind of humor sat in burnt-cork majesty on the heights of a platform, but it has now stepped down through town and field, and every one has got so accustomed to its delights that its occasional absence is as painful as it is rare. Being funny, in fact, seems the one disinterested and æsthetic activity in which Americans have attained a pre-eminence that is uncontested. And our pre-eminence here has been brought about in the only way in which national pre-eminence in any department of fine art can be attained—that is to say, by the entire Nation's giving its mind to it to the exclusion of everything that might distract or disturb. This is, of course, the secret of the national success in the plastic arts of Greece and Italy; in comedy, of France; in music, of Germany. . . . Unhappily there is ground for fearing that what is best, what is classic, one may say, in our pure fun will not last. Other people do not now, and posterity may not hereafter, savor it as we do at present. The fun of Rabelais, and Swift, and Voltaire is not pure fun, from which it differs by an alloy both of wit and of significance. The essence of intoxication of all kinds is incoherence and irresponsibility, and those of us who enjoy most such pure fun as that, for example, created by the idea of a Connecticut Yankee going out "Holly-grailing," can not fail to recognize that what really produces our undoubted pleasure is the effect of levity on a slight predisposition to hysteria. It must be clear, on reflection, that this sort of pleasure can not be depended on to be perennial. As an ideal it is hardly sane enough to endure, hardly admirable enough to impose itself on a future whose nerves may be expected to be less excitable. There are already signs that the Pompeian is about to succeed to the Attic epoch of pure fun.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- SHORTER POEMS. By Robert Browning. Pp. 308. Paper. \$0.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co.
- A LONDON PLANE-TREE; and Other Verse. By Amy Levy. Pp. 94. \$— . London: T. Fisher Unwin.
- IN THOUGHTLAND AND IN DREAMLAND. By Elsa D' Esterre-Keeling. Pp. 300. \$— . London: T. Fisher Unwin.
- HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA during the Second Administration of Thomas Jefferson. By Henry Adams. Two volumes. Pp. 471 and 500. \$4.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- DIABOLOGY. The Person and Kingdom of Satan. By Rev. Edward H. Jewett, S. T. D. Pp. 197. \$1.50. New York: Thomas Whittaker.
- OPEN SESAME! Poetry and Prose for School Days. Edited by Blanche Wilder Bellamy and Maude Wilder Goodwin. Vol I. Pp. 316. \$0.90. Boston: Ginn & Co.
- DISRAELI IN OUTLINE. By F. Carroll Brewster, LL. D. Pp. 394. \$— . Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott's Printing House. (For sale by Porter & Coates.)
- CHRISTINE, THE MODEL; or, Studies of Love. By Emile Zola. Pp. 458. \$0.50. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bros.
- ESSAYS OF AN AMERICANIST. By Daniel G. Brinton, A. M., M. D. Pp. 489. \$— . Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.

DRIFT.

AN interesting and decidedly remarkable volume is that issued (Macmillan & Co.) under the title of "Christ and His Times," from the authorship of the English "primate" Archbishop (of Canterbury) Edward White Benson. It is a series of visitation addresses, and it discusses many of the industrial, social, and reformatory questions that now agitate the public mind, in England and in other countries. In the address on "Suffering Population" he says, (p. 63):

"At the worst, while repression is the hot-bed and forcing-house of truculence, the immense benefit of allowing free discussion is evident in the fate of erroneous ideas which are gradually dispersed by it, while any grains of gold are seen and saved; in the occasion it gives for the diffusion of sounder views, and the avoidance of conflict with authority. At this moment the nationalization of land is under this wholesome process."

Still more striking is the address on "Purity," which is as remarkable for its wise cautions and criticisms on certain methods and measures relied on in church reform, as for its radical expressions. For example, the Archbishop nips the rising hopes of some of his young Anglicans by declaring

that little or nothing can be hoped for from the Confessional as a propaganda of purity. To the other wing of the Church, who are more secular in their methods, he gives a caution which is much needed in this country, as to the dangers and limitations of "publicity" as an instrument for beating down sin. He says:

"One further terrible risk is lest Publicity should lead on to Shamelessness. There have been times when neither England nor France dreaded Publicity. Public opinion takes strange sides sometimes. There are those who assert even now that the profligate man is not to-day an unpopular character, and might easily be made into a popular one."

This is a caution whose wisdom our American experience abundantly confirms. The Archbishop's remarks on organization are no less striking, particularly those on organizations for the protection and elevation of women. As to these he says, (p. 105):

"Not one step taken thus far in woman's education and advance can be said to have led to one evil or done one mischief. Her dignity has risen steadily with her power for good. No scandal, folly, luxury, extravagance, can be pointed to as results."

Public interest in the Nicaragua Canal will be greatly stimulated by the announcement that Hon. Warner Miller has been elected to the Presidency of the Canal Construction Company. Mr. Miller is well known as a sagacious and energetic business man of rare executive ability, and he is in every way worthy of being the head of this great American enterprise. The company could not have made a more fortunate selection. Mr. Miller declares that he proposes to be a working President, and he announces that hereafter operations on the canal will be pushed with all the vigor that men and money can bring to bear on it. Chief Engineer Menocal is now in New York in conference with Mr. Miller, and they both intend to proceed to Nicaragua to examine the work personally at an early date. Greytown Harbor, the eastern terminus of the canal, is now being dredged so as to permit of the entrance of large steamers. A breakwater is being constructed, and on shore the engineering parties are proceeding with their labors without delay from illness or any other causes. President Miller says that the company is about to receive a great accession of men of wealth from different sections of the country, and that the Board of Directors will be strengthened and reorganized.—*Boston Journal*, March 8.

The unprecedented warmth of the winter prevented any ice "crop" being gathered along the Atlantic Coast as far north as New York. The consequence has been that extraordinary efforts have been made farther north, and the quantity gathered will be enormously increased in northern New York and New England, and eastward, especially where shipments can be made by water. A dispatch from St. Johnsbury, Vt., on the 7th inst., says that fully half a million tons will be stored on Lake Champlain, nearly 1,000 men being then at work cutting. The ice on Lake Memphremagog was 18 inches thick, and over 100,000 tons would be harvested there. The St. John, N. B., *Globe* reports unusual activity near that city. It mentions parties who expect to cut about 150,000 tons, and adds: "It is feared that a difficulty will be found in getting vessels enough to transport this vast supply. Some of the concerns, it is reported, intend to carry their ice in large barges which will be towed from here to the place of destination."

Some time ago a negro took a seat in one of the cars of the Richmond & Danville Railroad Company. When the conductor came along he produced a ticket. The conductor told him he would have to pay twenty-five cents extra. He fished the quarter from his pocket and handed it over, remarking as he did so: "The road will never see that money." Thereupon the conductor gave him a thrashing. The assaulted and battered passenger brought an action for damages against the railroad company, and last month a Georgia jury awarded him \$700. The *Augusta Chronicle* invites attention to this verdict as a proof that the negro gets justice down in those parts, and certainly, so far as it goes, it appears to be evidence in that direction. Now let us hear more of such.

The free traders of New York have published a pamphlet against protection to American ships, written by a Mr. Gustav Schwab, who is said by the *Dry Goods Chronicle* to be connected with the Norddeutscher Lloyds Steamship Company. Now if our free trade friends will only follow this little pamphlet up by others from the agent of the Cunard Line and representatives of the French and Italian steamers, we think that they can pretty thoroughly expose the true nature of free trade assault on American shipping.—*Boston Journal*.

President Eliot of Harvard University, reports that last year the cost of holding morning prayers in Appleton Chapel and Sunday evening services in term time during the whole year, and Thursday vespers for four months in winter, was \$7,553.33. The bequest of Increase Sumner Wheeler, a Unitarian, who imposed no condition whatever on his gift of \$50,000, except that it was to be used for the support of religious worship, is hereafter to be applied to this use.

The English method of closing a service of public worship may be adopted with advantage everywhere. The people stand a moment after the benediction, then reverently sit down; they put on their wraps and gloves, exchange a friendly word or two with their neighbors, and then pass quietly out. Too often, in our congregations, the benediction is a signal to make a break for the door, as if each worshiper had been startled by hearing his dinner-bell.—*Congregationalist*.

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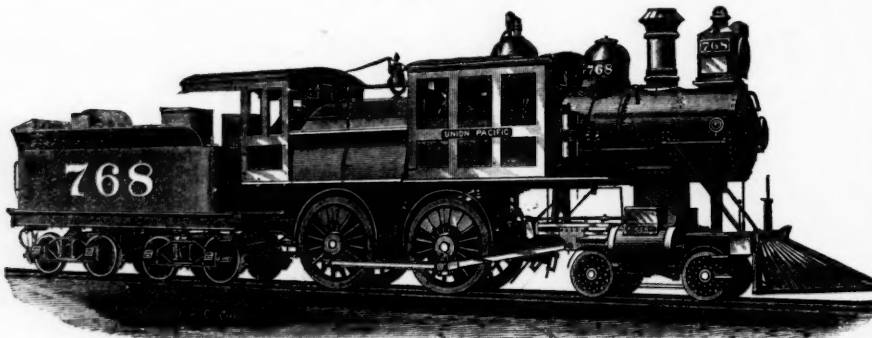
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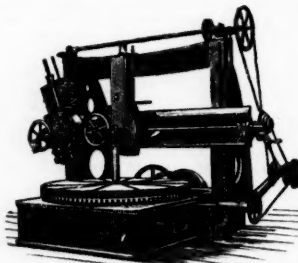
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